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**Original article**

**Assessment of peak expiratory flow rate in chronic alcoholics**

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**Abstract**

**Introduction**: Peak expiratory flow rate is relatively a crude measure of lung function, and it has also been used as screening tool in surveys. As consumption of alcohol is very common in Indians and known to cause airway disease, present study has been undertaken to assess the effect of chronic alcoholism on peak expiratory flow rate.

**Methods**: Peak expiratory flow rate is measured using ‘Computerised Medspiror’and the best of three readings are used. A total of 120 chronic alcoholics and control participated in the study.

**Observation and Results**: the results of observed values of Peak expiratory flow rate in litres/sec.showed a significant decrease (p<0.05) in chronic alcoholics as compared to control group.

**Conclusion**:Chronic alcoholism has deleterious effects mainly on lung and liver. In our present study chronic alcoholism is found to lead to severe reduction in PEFR with airflow limitation in large airways ,hence risk of respiratory morbidity and mortality is high with chronic alcoholism.

**Key words**: Peak expiratory flow rate ,lung function ,chronic alcoholism