

Sir,

PEAK FLOW RATE IN INDIANS

Ventilatory function values observed in a small group of Indian subjects who were temporarily residing in Belfast (U.K.), are presented here. The data includes values for the expiratory Peak Flow Rates (PFR), which have not been adequately studied in Indian subjects.

Vital Capacity (VC) and Forced Expiratory Volume in one second (FEV₁) were measured on a Spirometer fitted with an electronic timing device. Maximum Breathing Capacity (MBC) was recorded on a 70 Liter Tissot Spirometer. Gas Volumes were corrected for BTPS. Peak Flow Rate was measured with a Wright Peak Flow Meter. Data were obtained in 25 male subjects who were personnel of the Indian Navy, then stationed in U.K. (Table 1.)

TABLE I

Data in 25 Subjects

	<i>Mean</i>	<i>S.D.</i>		<i>Mean</i>	<i>S.D.</i>
Age (years)	25.7	4.66	PFR	3.29	0.19
			Height		
Height (cm)	167.5	4.87	PFR	319.6	22.23
			BSA		
Weight (kg)	64.8	6.9	PFR	1.99	0.19
			VC		
BSA (m ²)	1.72	0.09	PFR	145.6	13.63
VC (ml)	4628	458	FEV ₁ (L)		
FEV ₁ (ml)	3780	382	PFR(L/Sec)	2.43	0.22
			FEV ₁ (L)		
FEV ₁ (% of VC)	81.6	5.36	PFR	3.68	0.41
			MBC		
MBC(L/min)	150	16.3			
PFR(L/min)	550	30.1			

The PFR is somewhat higher than the mean value of 500 litres/min. observed in Indian adults (6), and 514 litres/min. in Chinese adults(2). VC is also larger than the highest previously reported Indian values (1, 7, 8). The highly significant correlations between PFR,

and FEV₁ or MBC observed by some investigators (4,5) could not be confirmed, probably because the number of subjects in this study was too small. The ratios PFR/Height and PFR/FEV₁ are smaller, but PFR/BSA is very close to the value observed by Leiner *et al.* (3).

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