

## EMS APPLICATION

Every ambulance carries a manual resuscitation device (MRD) but an important adjunct to the MRD, a suitable spirometer to assist the EMT using the device to administer the correct respiratory parameters, has long been lacking.

The importance of providing the correct tidal and minute volumes during resuscitation and transport is indisputable. Too much or too little ventilation can, and often does, lead to poor patient outcomes. This has been the subject of many articles including COMBAT HYPOXIA, by Gregg Rosner in the March 2003 edition of JEMS, which emphasized the dangers of inadequate oxygenation, and in the JEMS *Forecast for RESUSCITATION* article from the Highlights from the 2004 EMS State of the Science Conference, which drew attention to the frequent occurrence, and serious consequences, of hyperventilation.

The absence of spirometers in ambulances may be attributed to the fact that until now a truly suitable device has not been available. The Maxtec Exhalometer™, a small and inexpensive instrument, which recently received FDA clearance, is now available to fill that need. It connects to the expiratory port of the MRD and measures the exhaled tidal and minute volumes and respiration rate, thereby permitting the EMT to easily administer the correct ventilatory parameters and avoid the problems associated with improper ventilation, that often contribute to poor patient outcomes.

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