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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Pulmonary hypertension evaluation by Doppler echocardiogram in children and adolescents with mouth breathing syndrome<sup>☆,☆☆</sup>

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**KEYWORDS**

Mouth breathing;  
Tonsillectomy;  
Adenoidectomy;  
Pulmonary  
hypertension;  
Child;  
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**Abstract**

**Introduction:** Adenotonsillar hyperplasia (ATH) and allergic rhinitis (AR) are the most common causes of upper airway obstruction in children. Such diseases, by affecting the upper airways, can cause chronic alveolar hypoventilation, pulmonary vasoconstriction and pulmonary hypertension, which in some cases, are irreversible.

**Objective:** This cross-sectional study aimed to evaluate the prevalence of pulmonary hypertension in two groups of mouth-breathing (MB) 2–12 year old children with ATH and isolated allergic rhinitis, through Doppler echocardiography.

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<sup>32</sup> <sup>☆☆</sup> Study carried out at Hospital São Geraldo, Hospital das Clinicas, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil.

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32 echocardiography;  
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**Methods:** 54 patients with ATH and indications for adenoidectomy and/or tonsillectomy and 24 patients with persistent allergic rhinitis were selected and submitted to Doppler echocardiography. The Systolic Pulmonary Artery Pressure (SPAP) was determined by tricuspid regurgitation and the Mean Pulmonary Artery Pressure (MPAP) was calculated from the SPAP. Similar measurements were carried out in 25 nasal breathing (NB) individuals.

**Results:** The mean MPAP and SPAP were higher in the MB than in the NB group ( $17.62 \pm 2.06$  [ATH] and  $17.45 \pm 1.25$  [AR] vs.  $15.20 \pm 2.36$  [NB] mmHg,  $p < 0.005$ , and  $25.61 \pm 3.38$  [ATH] and  $25.33 \pm 2.06$  [AR] vs.  $21.64 \pm 3.87$  [NB] mmHg,  $p < 0.005$ , respectively) and the mean acceleration time of pulmonary flow trace (Act) was higher in the NB than in the MB group ( $127.24 \pm 12.81$  [RN] vs.  $114.06 \pm 10.63$  ms [ATH] and  $117.96 \pm 10.28$  [AR] ms [AR];  $p < 0.0001$ ).

**Conclusion:** None of the MB children (ATH and AR) met the PH criteria, although individuals with both ATH and isolated AR showed significant evidence of increased pulmonary artery pressure by Doppler echocardiography in relation to NB individuals. No differences were observed between the ATH and AR groups.

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## 49 PALAVRAS-CHAVE

50 Respiração bucal;  
 51 Tonsilectomia;  
 52 Adenoidecomia;  
 53 Hipertensão  
 54 pulmonar;  
 55 Criança;  
 56 Ecocardiografia  
 57 Doppler;  
 58 Rinite

## Avaliação de hipertensão pulmonar pela Ecodopplercardiografia em crianças e adolescentes com síndrome do respirador oral

### Resumo

**Introdução:** A Hiperplasia Adenotonsilar (HAT) e a Rinite Alérgica (RA) consistem nas causas mais comuns de obstrução de vias aéreas superiores em crianças. Tais afecções ao comprometer a via aérea superiores podem ocasionar hipoventilação alveolar crônica, vasoconstricção pulmonar e hipertensão pulmonar, em alguns casos, irreversível.

**Objetivo:** este estudo transversal objetivou avaliar a prevalência de hipertensão arterial pulmonar em dois grupos de crianças Respiradoras Orais (RO): com HAT e rinite alérgica isolada, de 2 a 12 anos de idade, por meio de exame ecodopplercardiográfico.

**Método:** 54 pacientes com HAT com indicação de adenoidecomia e/ou tonsilectomia e 24 pacientes com rinite alérgica persistente foram selecionados e submetidos à ecodopplercardiografia. A Pressão Sistólica da Artéria Pulmonar (PSAP) foi determinada pela regurgitação tricúspide e a Pressão Média da Artéria Pulmonar (PMAP) foi calculada a partir da PSAP. Determinações similares foram realizadas em 25 Respiradores Nasais (RN).

**Resultados:** as médias da PMAP e da PSAP foram maiores nos grupos de RO do que nos RN ( $17,62 \pm 2,06$  [HAT] e  $17,45 \pm 1,25$  [RA] vs.  $15,20 \pm 2,36$  [RN] mmHg;  $p < 0,005$ ; e  $25,61 \pm 3,38$  [HAT] e  $25,33 \pm 2,06$  [RA] vs.  $21,64 \pm 3,87$  [RN] mmHg;  $p < 0,005$ ; respectivamente) e a média do tempo de aceleração do traçado do fluxo pulmonar (TAC) foi maior nos RN que nos grupos de RO ( $127,24 \pm 12,81$  [RN] vs.  $114,06 \pm 10,63$  ms [HAT] e  $117,96 \pm 10,28$  [RA] ms [RA];  $p < 0,0001$ ).

**Conclusão:** Nenhuma criança respiradora oral (HAT e RA) preencheu os critérios de HP embora tanto os portadores de HAT quanto de RA isolada apresentaram evidências significativas de aumento da pressão arterial pulmonar pela ecodopplercardiografia em relação aos respiradores nasais. Não se observou diferença entre os grupos HAT e RA.

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## 77 Introduction

78 Mouth breathing syndrome (MBS) refers to the clinical  
 79 condition in which the individual has a breathing pattern  
 80 performed predominantly through the oral cavity for a  
 81 period longer than six months.<sup>1,2</sup> Among the etiologies,  
 82 allergic rhinitis is the most common cause of chronic  
 83 upper airway obstruction (UAO),<sup>3</sup> accounting for up to  
 84 85% of cases. The hypertrophy of adenoids and/or tonsils

corresponds to 79.2%, being the main cause of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) in children.<sup>1,4-9</sup>

Chronic nasal obstruction and the consequent OBS result in an insufficient supply of oxygen and alveolar ventilation during the night, causing hypoventilation, hypoxemia and hypercapnia that can lead to OSA and pulmonary vasoconstriction, which, if persistent, results in pulmonary hypertension (PH).<sup>6-14</sup> PH in children is defined as Mean Pulmonary Artery Pressure (MPAP)  $\geq 25$  mmHg or Systolic

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