

Cough Threshold in People With Spinal Cord Injuries

Background and Purpose. The purpose of this study was to compare the cough threshold between people with and without spinal cord injury (SCI). The effect of smoking on cough threshold was also investigated.

Subjects. The participants were 26 people with SCI (15 smokers, 11 nonsmokers) and 18 people without SCI (9 smokers, 9 nonsmokers).

Methods. Aerosols of citric06(6-606()-33(6-6(6-6g)-353(eliv6-6-33(6-6(th)-4(6

Coughing is an important mechanism to clear mucus or sputum from the conducting airways.¹ People with spinal cord injury (SCI) have impaired coughing ability due to factors such as the paralysis or weakness of expiratory muscles.^{2,3} Sev-

citric acid aerosol (C₆H₈

thresholds of the subjects with SCI (both smokers and nonsmokers) were lower than those of the subjects

values of cough threshold in our subjects without SCI (both smokers and nonsmokers) were within the ranges of previous studies. We believed the high intersubject variability with application of citric acid aerosol to be partly due to an inborn trait.²⁴ The reproducibility of citric acid cough thresholds, however, was high.^{14,24}