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Strategies to augment adherence in the management of sleep-disordered breathing

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Abstract

Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) is highly effective in treating sleep-disordered breathing (SDB). However, unlike surgical interventions, this treatment modality relies heavily on patient acceptance and adherence. The current definition of adherence is largely arbitrary and is mainly used by third-party payers to determine CPAP reimbursement but CPAP adherence remains sub-optimal. Strategies to augment adherence, especially early in the course of a CPAP trial, are needed in the management of SDB. An understanding of the basis for observed differences in CPAP and oral appliance (OA) use is necessary in developing these strategies, but to date no single factor has been consistently identified. Consequently, a multidimensional approach using educational, behavioural, technological and potentially pharmacological strategies to target (i) disease characteristics, (ii) patient characteristics including psychosocial factors, (iii) treatment protocols and (iv) technological devices and side effects that may influence adherence, is likely required to augment the complex behaviour of CPAP and OA use. In the near future, we envision a personalized medicine approach to determine the risk of non-adherence and set individualized adherence goals aimed at treating specific symptoms (e.g. excessive day-time sleepiness) and reducing the risk of patient-specific SDB consequences (e.g. atherosclerosis). Resources for interventions to improve adherence such as educational programmes and telemedicine encounters could then be more efficiently allocated.

Keywords

compliance; continuous positive airway pressure adherence; lung; sleep apnoea; sleep-disordered breathing

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INTRODUCTION

Sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) is highly prevalent and associated with considerable morbidity and mortality. Positive airway pressure (PAP) is currently the mainstay of treatment, but unlike surgical interventions, efficacy relies heavily on acceptance and adherence. The stakes are high; on an individual level, SDB results in a number of disease consequences including cardiovascular and metabolic disease. From a societal perspective, excessive daytime sleepiness and impaired functioning during wakefulness have profound socioeconomic implications.

DEFINING ADHERENCE TO THERAPY

While somewhat arbitrary, a threshold of less than 4 h of nightly PAP use on 70% of nights has been adopted to define non-adherence. This threshold has been debated since a dose-response relationship between PAP usage and clinical outcomes in obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) has been demonstrated.¹⁻⁴ That being said, specific adherence thresholds to treat OSA consequences are moving targets and vary depending on the outcomes of interest. In a cohort of 149 patients with severe OSA, Weaver *et al.* demonstrated that 4 h of nightly continuous PAP (CPAP) use was associated with improvement in the Epworth Sleepiness Scale but 7.5 h of nightly use was required for improvement in the Multiple Sleep Latency Test and Functional Outcomes associated with Sleepiness Questionnaire.¹ For treatment of hypertension, CPAP usage >3.5 h was associated with greater reduction in 24-h diastolic blood pressure after 4 weeks of treatment.⁵ There is, however, general acknowledgement that more is better with respect to CPAP usage.

In the USA, this concept of an adherence threshold has not been helped by third-party payers who have developed strict criteria for PAP reimbursement mandating the use of PAP adherence tracking systems. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that for continued PAP coverage beyond the first 3 months of therapy, the treating physician must conduct a face-to-face clinical re-evaluation no sooner than 31 days but no later than 91 days after initiating therapy. In addition, there must be documentation that the patient is benefiting from PAP therapy with objective evidence of PAP adherence based on download data showing 4 h of nightly use for 70% of nights monitored during a consecutive 30-day period. These criteria reinforce the erroneous notion of a therapeutic threshold and do not take into consideration the evidence suggesting that some PAP use is better than no use. In an outpatient cohort of 227 patients with concurrent chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and OSA or the overlap syndrome, any level of CPAP use was associated with some mortality benefit over no CPAP use.⁶

ADHERENCE ESTIMATES, SELFREPORTING AND OBJECTIVE USAGE MEASUREMENTS

Adherence, the main limitation to PAP therapy, is highly variable but remains sub-optimal in many patient populations. Using a criterion of 4 h or less of nightly use, CPAP non-adherence has been estimated between 29% and 83%.^{3,7,8} We have recently observed evidence of improving adherence over time, with one Big Data analysis showing up to 87%

adherence using modern technology.⁹ The pattern of PAP usage is established early, typically during the first week of therapy, and has been shown to predict long-term use.^{3,4,10–12} Compared with PAP, oral appliance (OA) adherence is usually higher but is also highly variable with 1-year compliance estimates between 32% and 82%. Comparison of the two modalities is limited, however, as the majority of studies compare subjective reports of OA use with objective CPAP usage data.^{13–16}

In the past, the accuracy of PAP adherence estimates has been limited by self-reporting, which was often unreliable. This situation has changed as device technology now allows for objective measurement of use. Microprocessors embedded within PAP units monitor cumulative time that the PAP device is turned on at the effective pressure. While this technology is not yet able to discriminate who is wearing the device when turned on, it does reliably track PAP use.¹⁷ This information can then be viewed using various transmission systems including smartcards or SD cards, memory sticks and via modem or wireless transmission. The information is not standardized between the different proprietary tracking systems but adherence data are available for all (Fig. 1). Of note, self-reported PAP use overestimates actual use (as determined by machine download) by approximately 1 h.^{3,18} A meta-analysis of 11 randomized controlled trials found that mean subjective CPAP use time was 0.70 (95% CI: 0.11–1.30) more hours per night than objective measures among treated OSA patients.¹⁴ Like CPAP, efficacy of mandibular advancement devices (MAD) is also reliant on adherence, and although there appears to be less reporting bias than with PAP, treatment tracking systems are being developed to limit discrepancies. An MAD with a built-in thermal sensor was studied in 80 patients with varying OSA severity.¹⁹ In this study, sensor-reported use was shown to be consistent with self-reported use. Meanwhile, Castillo *et al.* integrated a tooth microphone with an oral appliance device and monitored adherence through audio recording of night-time respiratory sounds.²⁰ Whether such efforts to monitor use objectively alters adherence remains unclear.

AUGMENTING ADHERENCE

Given the challenges with adherence, strategies to augment adherence are needed in the management of SDB. Investigators have mainly focused on identifying and targeting factors that may predict or influence adherence. An understanding of the basis for observed differences in PAP and OA use is necessary in developing strategies to improve adherence. Yet, to date, no single factor has been consistently identified, and commonly explored anthropometric, symptomatic or polysomnographic severity was found to explain just 4–25% of variance in CPAP use.²¹ Consequently, a multidimensional approach using educational, behavioural, technological and potentially pharmacological strategies to target (i) disease characteristics, (ii) patient characteristics including psychosocial factors, (iii) treatment protocols and (iv) technological devices and side effects that may influence adherence, is likely required to augment the complex behaviour of PAP and OA use.⁷

Disease characteristics

SDB characteristics are not likely to be modifiable targets to improve adherence. OSA severity, typically measured using the apnoea-hypopnoea index, has not been consistently

identified as a predictor of CPAP adherence.^{3,11,12,22,23} Similarly, studies looking at the association between REM-related OSA and CPAP adherence have been mixed.^{24,25} A more convincing association has been observed between initial severity of daytime sleepiness and PAP use, and an Epworth Sleepiness score >10 was shown to be an independent predictor of long-term CPAP use in 1211 consecutive OSA patients.^{3,12} Patients with the greatest level of CPAP adherence typically report the greatest improvement in OSA symptoms including daytime energy and greater satisfaction with CPAP use, but in a possible bidirectional relationship this improvement in OSA symptoms has also been shown to correlate positively with CPAP use.²⁶

Patient characteristics

Anthropometric variables including age, sex and marital status have not been consistently associated with CPAP adherence nor are they readily modifiable strategic targets to improve adherence.⁸ Some (but not all) studies have suggested worse CPAP adherence in African-Americans,^{27–30} although reasons for this disparity are unclear, but may be a function primarily of socio-economic status. Very little data exist for other races and there is a need for future research on CPAP adherence among different demographics, including women, older patients and in different ethnic groups. In a sample of 126 New Zealand patients with OSA initiating CPAP therapy, 19.8% were Maori. This group had significantly lower CPAP usage than non-Maori but in a multiple regression model including ethnicity, socio-economic status, annual income, level of formal education and eligibility for government-subsidized health care, only non-completion of tertiary education and socio-economic deprivation remained as significant independent predictors of CPAP non-adherence.³¹ In a retrospective cohort of 260 veterans with newly diagnosed OSA, initial CPAP adherence was closely associated with higher neighbourhood socioeconomic factors.³² After adjustment for individual socio-demographic characteristics and medical comorbidity, the probability of daily CPAP use of 4 h ranged from 34.1% (95% CI: 26.4–42.7) for subjects from a low socio-economic neighbourhood to 62.3% (95% CI: 53.8–70.1) for subjects from a high socioeconomic neighbourhood. CPAP users have been shown to have more years of education and be more likely to work in professional occupations.³ To this extent, a social history may be helpful in developing a successful strategy to improve PAP and OA adherence.

Both PAP and OA adherence have been shown to be associated with psychological traits and disposition. The Type D (distressed) personality, defined as a combination of negative affectivity and social inhibition, was found in 30% of 247 OSA patients treated with CPAP for longer than 60 months. This personality type significantly increased the perceived frequency and severity of a range of side effects and had lower objective CPAP adherence compared to patients without Type D personality.³³ Type D personality patients also reported a significantly higher discontinuation rate using MAD when compared to patients without Type D personality.³⁴ The authors argued that identification of this personality could be used by healthcare personnel when evaluating patients awaiting treatment.

CPAP use has been associated with a patient's perception of OSA symptoms and risks of SDB as well as perceived benefits to therapy. CPAP use may also relate to treatment

outcome expectations, self-efficacy and coping mechanisms.²³ These psychological factors may be more important than any other patient characteristic in determining patterns of CPAP and OA use. Patients who self-initiate their referral have been shown to have greater CPAP use.³⁵ Very high treatment outcome expectations may be associated with worse adherence. Higher self-efficacy or confidence in the ability to use CPAP when faced with difficulties can improve adherence and positive effect.³⁶ CPAP adherence has also been associated with engagement in active coping strategies with new and difficult situations.³⁷

Despite the influence of these psychological factors, depression and anxiety do not seem to influence CPAP adherence significantly, and no association was demonstrated between the Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale and CPAP use.³⁸ Claustrophobia, however, may be associated with poor adherence. A 15-item subscale measuring claustrophobic tendencies was measured pre-CPAP and after 3 months of CPAP in a secondary analysis of data from a prospective study of 153 OSA participants that completed 3 months of CPAP therapy.³⁹ Poor CPAP adherence (<2 h per night) was more than two times higher in participants with a claustrophobia score of ≥ 25 . Identification of patients with claustrophobic tendencies and targeted interventions designed to reduce the fear and intrusiveness of SDB therapies may be beneficial. Our clinical experience with modern masks including nasal pillows suggests that claustrophobia may be less of an issue in 2018 than in the past years.

Cognitive perception has been shown to influence PAP use, emphasizing the importance of education in patient formulation of accurate and realistic perceptions and expectations, both regarding SDB and treatments.⁷ Knowledge and support are likely of greater importance in those with less background education as discussed above. Patient education is recognized as a standard of care in the treatment of SDB.⁴⁰ Despite this recognition, studies investigating the effects of educational strategies alone on PAP adherence have been mixed and generally shown minimal effect.⁴¹ The heterogeneity of the educational strategies used makes generalizations difficult and many do not measure the mediating variable of knowledge. Meurice *et al.* studied the effects of four educational strategies on CPAP compliance in 112 severe OSA patients in seven centres in the French ANTADIR homecare network.⁴² Patients received either a simple oral explanation or an oral and written explanation of CPAP use. In addition, they received, from homecare technicians, either a single home visit at CPAP onset, or repeated home visits at CPAP onset and at 1 week, 1 month and 3 months after. There was no significant difference in adherence between all four education groups. In contrast, Lai *et al.* randomized 100 OSA patients to a brief motivational enhancement education programme or usual care.⁴³ The intervention group received usual care plus a brief motivational education programme directed at enhancing the subjects' knowledge, motivation and self-efficacy to CPAP through the use of a 25-min video, a 20-min patient-centred interview and a 10-min telephone follow-up. The intervention group had better CPAP use (higher daily CPAP usage by 2 h per day ($P < 0.001$)) and a fourfold increase in the number of patients using CPAP for $\geq 70\%$ of days with ≥ 4 h/day. These studies demonstrate the differences and frequent overlap in interventions. The equivalent amount of education and support employed as the control in one study may serve as the intervention in another, limiting interpretation of educational strategies on PAP adherence.⁸ More recently, with technological advances, there has been interest in alternative platforms for delivery of educational materials including video as discussed below. Guralnick *et al.* randomized 212

patients referred to a sleep laboratory that served a predominantly minority population for suspected OSA to view an educational video about OSA and CPAP therapy before the sleep study or to usual care.⁴⁴ No difference in CPAP adherence was observed at 30 days.

Greater success has been described with cognitive behavioural or motivational strategies in improving adherence.^{35,45–51} These behavioural strategies again recognize the psychosocial influences on PAP adherence. In a meta-analysis assessing the effectiveness of educational, supportive or behavioural strategies in encouraging CPAP use, most studies incorporated elements of more than one intervention.⁴⁸ Low-to moderate-quality evidence showed that all three types of interventions led to increased CPAP usage in CPAP-naive participants with moderate to severe OSA. Behavioural therapies led to improvement in average CPAP usage by 1.44h/night (95% CI: 0.43–2.45, $n = 584$, six studies: low-quality evidence) and increased the number of participants who used their machines for longer than 4 h per nights from 28 to 47 per 100 (OR: 2.23, 95% CI: 1.45–3.45, $n = 358$, 3 studies, low-quality evidence). These behavioural strategies have been shown to have greater effect size than support or educational interventions, but studies on behavioural strategies are again limited by heterogeneity of interventions with most interventions being a composite of various strategies.⁴¹ Similar to educational strategies, technologies are also being incorporated into behavioural strategies, discussed below. Cognitive behavioural therapies may increase CPAP use by improving self-efficacy and social support.⁵¹

Social support has been shown to have a positive influence on adherence in a few studies.⁸ Lewis *et al.* found CPAP use was higher in those living with someone as compared with those living alone.³⁸ SDB treatments may raise concerns among patients regarding less intimacy with their bed partner and discussions regarding these concerns may influence adherence.³⁰ In a study assessing the impact of OSA and CPAP treatment on patients' partners, reported change in the partners' sleep quality between pre-sleep study and CPAP treatment correlated positively with CPAP use ($r = 0.5$, $P = 0.01$).⁵² Baron *et al.* also found that perception of wives' support for CPAP treatment predicted increased adherence, but only in patients with high disease severity.³⁶ Spousal pressure to use CPAP was not found to be beneficial for adherence.

In completing the biopsychosocial model and returning to biological predictors of PAP, nasal patency is a potential patient target to improve PAP adherence. PAP devices rely on delivery of pressurized air via flexible tubing connecting to an external mask that interfaces with the patient. While various types of interfaces exist, nasal patency and resistance as measured using various techniques including active anterior rhino-manometry and acoustic rhinometry have been shown to have a significant effect on PAP adherence.^{53–56} CPAP use is lower in patients with smaller nasal passages, and nasal congestion has been associated with a decrease in mean daily CPAP use.^{53,54} Addressing nasal patency, often with the input of an otolaryngologist, is one strategy to improve PAP adherence. If symptoms persist despite medical therapies, surgery may be required.^{57,58} Surgical correction of severe nasal obstruction in 12 patients with severe OSA refractory to CPAP treatment resulted in a significant decrease in nasal resistance and rendered all patients tolerant to CPAP.⁵⁸ In fact, some otolaryngologists have suggested that nasal septoplasty to facilitate PAP adherence is the most common surgery for OSA.

Treatment protocols

Early adoption of CPAP use has been associated with long-term adherence and consequently the initial period of CPAP prescription and initiation has been a target of interest.^{8,10,12} PAP can now be introduced in-laboratory or at home using auto-titrating PAP technologies. Several randomized trials have compared home testing with auto-titrating PAP to traditional CPAP prescription following in-laboratory diagnostic and titration polysomnography. In patients with a high pretest probability of moderate to severe OSA without major co-morbid medical conditions, this ambulatory model of care can provide excellent results, comparable to the traditional model.^{59–61} A meta-analysis and meta-regression of nine randomized trials studying a total of 282 patients found auto-titrating PAP was associated with a reduction in the mean applied pressure across the night by 2.2 cm H₂O compared to CPAP and with similar adherence.⁶² Other investigators have suggested greater comfort and improved adherence with auto-titrating CPAP in patients requiring CPAP levels higher than 10 cm H₂O and in patients reporting side effects on conventional CPAP.^{63,64} Reporting problems after the first night of CPAP has been shown to be an important predictor of ensuing CPAP use.³⁸ In a population-based comprehensive CPAP programme utilizing daily telephone contact within the first week, ‘troubleshooting’ and regular feedback to both patients and physicians was shown to achieve CPAP compliance rates >85% over 6 months, again emphasizing the potential importance of early interventions in improving adherence.⁶⁵

Others have assessed the use of a sedative-hypnotic early on during CPAP initiation in improving long-term PAP adherence with mixed results.^{66–70} Both the approach of using a single sedative dose, typically a Z-hypnotic, prior to split-night or titration polysomnography and regular use of a sedative for the first 14 days of CPAP therapy have been studied, but again no consistent improvement in adherence has been shown.

Following treatment initiation, the American Thoracic Society has recommended measuring outcomes 1 week, 4–6 weeks, 12 weeks, 6 months, 1 year after and then yearly monitoring thereafter.¹⁷ However, access to sleep providers remains limited and in reality follow-up monitoring is, at least in the USA, heavily influenced by third-party payers’ reimbursement criteria for PAP and OA devices. The arbitrary 31–90-day follow-up requirement imposed by CMS for PAP as discussed above may result in adverse consequences for some patients, adding inconvenience and expense for patients. Anecdotally, we feel that the fear of costs related to not meeting CMS reimbursement criteria has become a major determinant of PAP and OA acceptance and adherence, potentially improving adherence. Moreover, patients of disadvantaged socioeconomic status, unmarried and those with psychiatric disease may have difficulty meeting these reimbursement criteria, potentially resulting in unintended discrimination in provision of healthcare services.⁷¹

While follow-up is necessary in ensuring treatment adherence, the frequency, intensity and modality of follow-up to optimize adherence remain unknown. Adherence during the week prior to a clinic visit has been shown to be higher than the average adherence during the 2-month period prior to the clinic visit, suggesting importance of regular follow-up.⁵³ Follow-up visits allow for identification and troubleshooting of treatment side effects. As discussed, studies on follow-up are now incorporating educational and behavioural interventions but again these interventions vary in specific constructs.

Novel technologies including smartphones are also increasingly being studied in treatment protocols, fostering active patient engagement (APE) and accountability, but whether these strategies result in improved adherence remains to be determined. PAP devices have the capability of displaying the previous night's usage and providing direct feedback. Cloud-based platforms receive regular data updates from PAP machines and allow for real-time monitoring of adherence by providers. Malhotra *et al.* compared APE technology, a real-time internet-based patient engagement tool, to usual care monitoring in a retrospective analysis of two cloud-based databases (AirView and myAir).⁹ In 128 037 patients, APE was associated with more patients achieving adherence defined by US Medicare criteria compared to usual care with remote monitoring of PAP adherence (87.3% compared to 70.4%). Average therapy usage was 5.9 h in the APE group versus 4.9 h in the matched usual care group and patients 'struggling' with CPAP therapy adherence had a 17.6% absolute improvement in adherence using APE compared with usual care.

Technological advances and the availability of wireless capabilities and cloud-based databases in transferring data have also placed sleep medicine in a unique position for adopting telemedicine. Studies using telemedicine have shown mixed results on PAP adherence.⁷²⁻⁷⁷ In a four-arm randomized, factorial design clinical trial of 1455 patients referred for suspected OSA (Tele-OSA), two telemedicine interventions were implemented: (i) web-based OSA education (Tel-Ed) and (ii) CPAP telemonitoring with automated patient-messaging feedback (Tel-TM).⁷³ Patients were randomized to (i) usual care, (ii) Tel-Ed added, (iii) Tel-TM added or (iv) Tel-Ed and Tel-TM (Tel-both). Average daily CPAP use at 90 days was 3.8 ± 2.5 , 4.0 ± 2.4 , 4.4 ± 2.2 and 4.8 ± 2.3 h in usual care, Tel-Ed, Tel-TM and Tel-both groups, respectively. Usage was significantly higher in the Tel-TM and Tel-both groups versus usual care but not for Tel-Ed ($P = 0.10$). Similar to prior studies on education, this study found that even with a telemedicine platform, education alone had no significant influence on PAP use and it again suggested that accountability may be more effective at inducing changes in adherence behaviour. Tele-medicine was less expensive than standard management, suggesting ongoing research on advanced technologies in SDB should be encouraged.

Technological factors

Side effects are not uncommon with PAP (and oral appliances) and technological advances are attempting to address these side effects. Few added technological features, however, have been shown to improve adherence, and in fact while it seems intuitive, side effects have not been shown to impact adherence significantly.⁷ Nonetheless, it is recommended that treatment side effects be identified and addressed, including both mask- and air pressure-related side effects.

Mask-related side effects include poor fit with leak, skin pressure and irritation, claustrophobia, dry mouth and nasal congestion. It does not appear that the PAP mask interface at treatment initiation significantly influences adherence but there are now a wide variety of interfaces with few studies directly comparing them.^{7,78} Heated humidification was developed to try to minimize dryness but the evidence to date does not consistently support improved adherence with the addition of this feature.^{79,80} Heated humidification

may reduce symptoms of dry nose, mouth and throat, and should be individualized. Condensation in the tubing or rainout can be minimized using heated tubing or tube covers to reduce exposure of the tubing air to the cooler surrounding environment.

Pressure-related discomfort has led to the development of expiratory pressure relief technologies (e.g. C-flex in Respiroics [Murrysville, Pennsylvania, USA], EPR in Resmed [San Diego, California, USA]), which reduces airway pressure during early expiration with a return to the prescribed pressure at the end of expiration to varying degrees. It too has not been shown to improve adherence reliably.^{81–84} The ramp feature reduces the initial PAP level, and then gradually increases the pressure over a set time period to the prescribed target, but no improvement in adherence has been shown with the addition of the ramp. Again, studies comparing auto-titrating units to traditional CPAP units have shown similar adherence. In 62 OSA patients randomized to CPAP or bilevel PAP, there was no significant difference between hourly use, the percentage of time that the device was running and the prescribed pressure that was being delivered at 1 year. Thus, bilevel PAP cannot be routinely recommended as a strategy to improvement adherence in OSA.⁸⁵

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Our vision for the future is that patients would undergo diagnostic testing using a wearable technology and/or blood biomarker, and these data would be used to assess disease severity and predict risk of complications. In some patients, administration of auto-titrating PAP with follow-up as needed may be sufficient. In such cases, remote monitoring via cloud may be sufficient if patients were empowered to call for help when needed. In other patients who may struggle with the interface or other issues, troubleshooting could be offered via telemedicine or face-to-face via a nurse practitioner or respiratory therapist. This approach would allow sleep specialists to focus on the most complex patients who are struggling with therapy or who have major co-morbidities that need to be addressed. We strongly believe that innovative solutions using technology to advantage will be required to deliver care to the estimated 1 billion OSA patients worldwide. More data are required to determine optimal management of OSA.

CONCLUSION

Strategies are necessary to improve adherence to non-surgical OSA treatment modalities, namely PAP. While the current definition of adherence is mandated by CMS to determine reimbursement, in the future patients may benefit from more individualized treatment targets with the goal of reducing risk of OSA consequences on a patient-to-patient basis. It seems clear that certain patient characteristics (e.g. psychological traits) and disease phenotypes (e.g. degree of EDS) impact PAP adherence and as such are important factors for the treating physician to note in assessing a patient's risk of non-adherence. In initiating treatment, more support seems superior to less, and although studies are difficult to compare, OSA centres should prioritize prescribing a support regimen based on available data and available resources early in the course of a treatment trial. Development of new technologies, specifically those that give direct patient feedback, is ongoing and will hopefully improve adherence in motivated patients. Overall, given a multitude of available options with more in

the pipeline, clinicians should be optimistic about achieving adherence to OSA therapies in their patients.

Abbreviations:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| APE | active patient engagement |
| CMS | Centers Medicare and Medicaid Services |
| CPAP | continuous PAP |
| MAD | mandibular advancement device |
| OR | odds ratio |
| OSA | obstructive sleep apnoea |
| PAP | positive airway pressure |
| SDB | sleep-disordered breathing |

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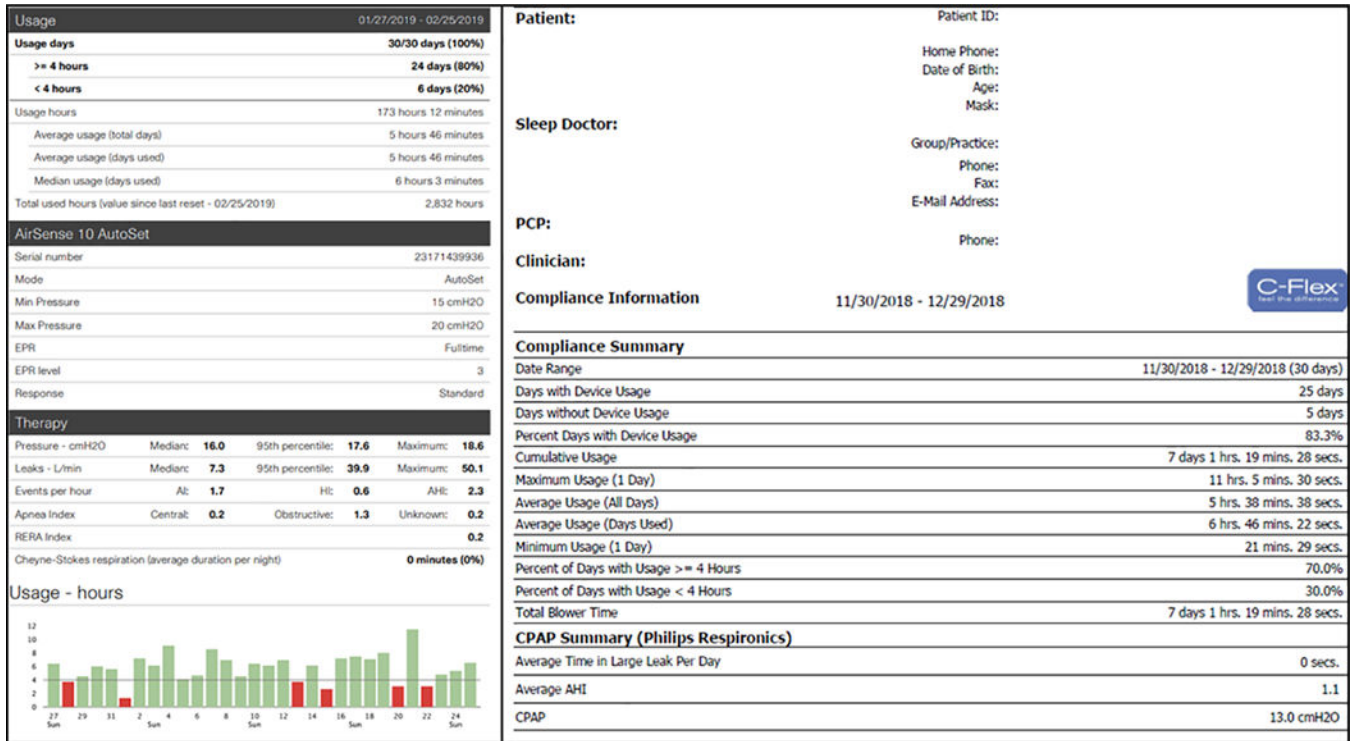


Figure 1.
Examples of data downloaded from two different positive airway pressure (PAP) units.