

## A Big Advantage of the EZflow<sup>™</sup> Continuous Nebulizer versus Back-to-Back Hand-held Nebulizer Treatments

By S. David Piper, PE, Piper Medical Products

In addition to what the studies now show, continuous nebulization is more labor-efficient and as effective as back-to-back treatments when delivering the same amount of medication. A continuous nebulizer delivers a lot more medication than back-to-back small, hand-held nebulizer treatments. The standard hand-held nebulizer treatment lasts up to 15 minutes and delivers only 2.5 mg of Albuterol. A hospital that is treating severe asthmatics in the ER using back-to-back, hand-held nebulizer treatments can deliver 10 mg/hour of albuterol or other medication. If 10 mg/hour is not enough medication to turn the patient around, the clinician has no other choice but to admit and intubate the patient. The risks of intubation to the patient are serious.

Continuous nebulization offers clinicians the option of delivering substantially more medication prior to intubation. If 10 mg/hour is not enough, the EZflow can deliver up to 30 mg/hour of albuterol and the EZflow MAX can deliver up to 80 mg/hour of albuterol. The additional risks of higher medication delivery rates is smaller than the associated risks of intubation. There are hospitals which will use up to 80 mg/hour on a patient for twenty minutes just to turn them around and get them on a more conventional continuous nebulization dose of 10 to 20 mg/hour. Using continuous nebulization as an adjunct to back-to-back therapy will probably rely heavily on the EZflow MAX because it delivers up to 10 L/min of oxygen and patients who are in danger of being intubated will have lower O2's.