HIGH FREQUENCY VENTILATION

DEAR SIR,

In a recent article of the C.A.S. Journal there was an interesting article on high frequency, low tidal volume ventilation. I found the article somewhat frustrating to read, however, in that it contradicted the teachings concerning ventilation, tidal volumes and the dead space, without offering a satisfactory theoretical explanation.

This frustration is no longer necessary. Two recent articles in *Science*^{1,2} give intellectually pleasing explanations based on experiment and

theory for the phenomenon, based on airway topology and dynamics. Of particular interest is the finding that ventilation seems to vary directly with the product of stroke volume and frequency of ventilation even at tidal volumes below the dead space volume.

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REFERENCES

1. HASLTON, F.R., *et al.* *Science* 208:69 (1980).
2. DRAZEN, J.M., *et al.* *Science* 209:609 (1980).