

## Relearning breathing — respiratory support in high SCI

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives are to gain insights into respiratory rehabilitation including weaning from mechanical ventilation and tracheostomy, pros and cons with phrenic or diaphragm pacing and dysphagia and communication management in cervical SCI.

Cervical SCI may result in respiratory insufficiency and is a common cause of morbidity and mortality both in the phase immediately after injury and later. Accordingly, respiratory rehabilitation is important after SCI to identify, preserve and restore as much respiratory function as possible while providing sufficient support of breathing and secretion management when necessary. Breathing, secretion management, and swallowing, may all influence the strategy for regaining a voice for verbal communication. Swallowing difficulties in cervical SCI may be multifactorial and can cause respiratory complications. This workshop features both oral presentations and discussions of rehabilitation and treatment. Traditional ventilator treatment, electric stimulation (phrenic pacing or diaphragm pacing) as an alternative to traditional ventilator treatment, swallowing rehabilitation, approaches to dysphagia, and communication strategies in individuals with a tracheal cannula will be covered in the context of cervical SCI.