

## **PPF008: Poster presentation**

### **Does beard equals fit test fail?**

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#### **Abstract**

A well-groomed and styled men's beard is a fashion trend nowadays, but is it possible for men to be both stylish and safely protected using a negative pressure full face mask, or do they have to choose?

In the present study the aim was to find out how beard affect the protection factor for a negative pressure full face mask. Twelve men with different stiffness and growth of beard participated in the study. The first day of the study they were asked to clean-shave before leak testing. Leak testing was subsequently performed each day for five days and then again after 15 days. The fit test contained seven exercises, each was performed for 50 seconds. The exercises was: "Normal breath 1", "Deep breath", "Head side by side", "Head up and down", "Speak out loud", "Bending over" and "Normal breath 2". During the test period the test persons were not allowed to shave or trim their beard.

The results from the study showed that there were a large variation in leakage between the men, but also between exercises. The overall fit factor for all men together showed that the leakage increased during the test period.