Peak flow meter
- Shows normal or low PEFR
- A characteristic pattern in asthma is morning dips where peak flow values are the lowest in the morning and improve throughout the day
- Variability from day-to-day may also be observed

![Flow comparison graph]

Changes in pO2 and pCO2

During short acute asthmatic attacks
- Low pO2 and pCO2
- Arterial hypoxaemia due to V/Q mismatch
- Low pO2 because hyperventilation causes more CO2 to be blown off in the parts of lungs where the airways are less affected

During a severe ongoing asthma attack
- Low pO2 and pCO2 starts to increase
- Widespread airway narrowing causing there to be less areas where CO2 can be blown off
- The patient may also be exhausted and the respiratory effort may be weak