

Continuous Monitoring of Asthma Control Progress Report 3

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Date: Friday, February 3rd - Thursday, February 9th

Problem Statement

Asthma patients often do not experience the the symptoms of asthma exacerbations, such as coughing, wheezing, and increased respiratory rate, for up to 2 days after it has begun. In severe asthma patients, where the exacerbations are more frequent, prolonged detection can lead to more serious symptoms, longer recovery times, and extended tissues destruction. These severe asthma patients only account for 10% of all asthmatics, but they account for a disproportionate amount of health-care costs, hospital admissions, doctor visits, and emergency services. By creating a device that can detect the symptoms of an asthma exacerbation earlier, the patients could be notified to start their asthma action plan (AAP) sooner. This could potentially save significant amounts of time, money and resources while reducing the effects of the exacerbation.

Restatement of Previous Team Goals

- Continue research relative to chosen design
- Begin fabrication
- Perform patient testing with original design

Summary of Team Role Accomplishments

- Luke (BSAC) - Nothing to report from BSAC. Will have more to report after meeting on Friday 2/10.
- Tim (Leader/ Communicator)- Worked on/ submitted the progress report and Design Matrix.
- Kelsey (BWIG/ BPAG)- Uploaded PDS and progress report to website.

Summary of Design Accomplishments

The team came up with 3 different design ideas: Stethoscope, Diaphragm Microphone, and Encased Microphone. Details can be found in our design matrix, but we will try to describe the motivation for these designs as well as the differences between them.

Stethoscope- This design is very similar to our final design from last semester. It features a stethoscope head that will sit on the patients back to listen to the lungs. A microphone inside and insulated casing will pick up the lung sounds and send it to the DAQ (this would be the same microphone as used last semester). There are two main differences between this design and the final prototype from last semester. Firstly, we would put the microphone as close to the

stethoscope head instead of having the signal travel down the tube before reaching the microphone. This would hopefully eliminate any alterations that the signal would face from interaction with the tubing. In addition, we would reduce the size of the microphone encasing to reduce bulk and make it easier to integrate into a shirt. One large motivator for this design is that we know the system worked last semester, so we would just tweak parts instead of starting a whole new design.

Diaphragm Microphone- This design is centered around using a different microphone than last semester. It would feature a Sparkfun Electret Microphone Breakout (BOB-12758) shown on the right. This microphone picks up amplitude not sounds “by capturing sound waves between two conducting plates (one a vibrating diaphragm and the other fixed) in the microphone and converting them into electrical waves.” The idea behind using this microphone is that it more accurately mimics a stethoscope, which uses a diaphragm to pick up lung sounds. The diaphragm part of this microphone would sit inside of a 3D printed encasing while the red chip part would sit on the outside of the casing. This design would be smaller/ less bulky than the Stethoscope design while still trying to collect the sounds in a manner similar to a stethoscope.



Encased Microphone- This design implements a little bit of both the previous designs. First, it would feature a 3D printed casing like the Diaphragm Microphone. This helps reduce bulk and increase patient comfort. Unlike that design though, the Encased Microphone would use the same microphone implement last semester/ in the Stethoscope design. The idea behind this is that we know that microphone has worked well and it has been used on our code before. The Electret Microphone above may not be as compatible with our code as the other microphone was. In addition, the microphone would be entirely enclosed in our casing, unlike the Diaphragm design. This would produce an even slimmer profile making it fit easier in the shirt as well as against the body.

Activities

Date	Member	Task	Time (hrs)	Week Total	Sem Total
2/7	All	Team meeting to brainstorm design ideas, start the design matrix	2		
2/8	Tim	Finished Design matrix, started progress report	1.5	3.5	7
2/9	Kelsey	Finished design matrix, continued research	1	3	6.5
2/8	Luke	Finished Design Matrix and progress report	1	3	6.5

