



Lena's story: A ventilator a little easier to live with

Lena is an amazing woman who relies on ventilation support from her Vivo 45LS 24/7, but her life has not always been this comfortable.

Lena's journey began in the small village of Gäddträsk near the town Lycksele in the north of Sweden, back in 1950. At the tender age of 4, she and another child from her village were struck by the diagnosis of polio. The disease was feared for its contagious nature, leading Lena to spend 4 months in isolation at the hospital, without the comfort of visitors. It was a dark time, made even harder by the loss of her young companion to the illness. But against the odds, Lena emerged a survivor. However, life had more challenges in store for Lena. At the age of 10, she found herself back in the hospital, this time battling kyphoscoliosis. Following a complex surgery to stabilize her spine, Lena spent a grueling six months in a fullbody cast. Yet, through it all, her spirit remained unbroken. Despite her resilience, Lena faced ongoing struggles with energy levels and always found herself trailing behind in childhood activities. Eventually, medical intervention led her to a lung hospital, where it became clear that respiratory support was essential for her well-being. When Lena reached 40, she began relying on respiratory assistance with a PLV 100. Following 17 years of utilizing a mask, she underwent a tracheostomy in 2004, marking a transformative turning point. "It's like living in an entirely different world," she reflects. Throughout the years, Lena only once encountered the RS virus. Typically, it predominantly affects

babies, but Lena, due to her lung capacity akin to that of an infant, is also susceptible. Initially, Lena didn't require respiratory support during the day. However, with the onset of RS virus episodes, continuous 24/7 ventilatory assistance became imperative. Lena has relied on various respiratory support systems, including the PLV 100, Legendair, and most recently, the Astral. However, due to challenges finding compatible circuits and effective humidification with the Astral ventilator, she sought an alternative solution. Transitioning to the Vivo 45 LS proved to be a significant improvement, as it allowed for optimal circuit compatibility. Consequently, Lena now experiences increased energy levels and requires fewer inhalations, thanks to better management of her mucus issues. Engaging in conversation with Lena was a delightful experience, her pleasant demeanor remained unaffected despite her reliance on a tracheostomy and full ventilator support. Lena's passion for travel is evident, as she and her husband, Roland, have frequented the French Riviera several times. Nowadays, she likes to take trips in their boat on the west coast of Sweden and sometimes they visit Lena's homevillage in a camper van. She also likes to go shopping, visit concerts, ice hockey games and lots of other fun experiences. "Bringing along the Vivo 45LS makes traveling much more manageable," Lena says.