

Someone stated that for high notes...

"The air must move in large volumes...as we play higher notes."

Actually this is an "old wives (brass players?) tale." The further we go up in our range, the less air we are moving. If you carefully analyze how much air is passing through the embouchure on a low C (2nd space) compared to the one 2 octaves higher you'll see this is true.

Here is the experiment of proof. Take a huge breath. Play the low one at forte with the metronome clicking away at 60. Count how many clicks pass by. Do the same on the high one at forte. You should be able to hold it significantly longer, proving that less air is moving.

The difference between upper and lower registers when it comes to what the embouchure is doing is simple. The embouchure's musculature must be strong enough during the high note buzzing, to hold back what the diaphragm is pushing out, creating the high pressure stream of air which is necessary for upper range.

Bottom line: Don't play with pressure! You are damaging the very muscles you need to be building up to improve you range and your endurance.