

Lung function test

Lung function test	
<i>Diagnostics</i>	
MeSH	D012129 ^[1]
OPS-301 code	1-71 ^[2]

A **lung function test** (or **pulmonary function test (PFT)**) is a test to measure the function of the lungs.

Examples

- Spirometry, using a *spirometer*, is the most common of the pulmonary function tests, measuring lung function, specifically the measurement of the amount (volume) and/or speed (flow) of air that can be inhaled and exhaled.
- Body plethysmography is a very sensitive lung measurement used to detect lung pathology that might be missed with conventional pulmonary function tests. This method of obtaining the absolute volume of air within one's lungs may also be used in situations where several repeated trials are required or where the patient is unable to perform the multibreath tests.
- Peak expiratory flow may, in addition to the *spirometer*, be measured with a more handy *peak flow meter*.
- Nitrogen washout (or *Fowler's method*) is a test for measuring dead space in the lung during a respiratory cycle, as well as some unique parameters related to the closure of airways.
- A ventilation/perfusion lung scan, also called a V/Q lung scan, uses scintigraphy and medical isotopes to evaluate the circulation of air and blood within a patient's lungs, ^[3] in order to determine the ventilation/perfusion ratio.

References

[1] http://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2011/MB_cgi?field=uid&term=D012129

[2] <http://ops.icd-code.de/ops/code/1-71.html>

[3] <http://www.umm.edu/ency/article/003828.htm>

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