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Standardized Approach To PFT Interpretation

Spirometry, lung volume measurements and assessments of carbon monoxide uptake have been the backbones of pulmonary function testing (PFT) for over a century. Results from these tests serve two general purposes: 1) characterize physiologic lung impairments; 2) quantify the degree of impairment. PFTs alone cannot make diagnoses but when coupled with other clinical data they can be instrumental in guiding clinical decisions. Interpreting PFT results is a stepwise process. First, test quality must be assured. Second, the pattern of impairment must be described. Third, the degree of impairment (including changes from previous results) must be established. Finally, an interpretive statement must be generated that produces statements that are unambiguous and can be easily read by both clinicians and patients. This presentation addresses this last step and will focus on a standardized phraseology that is clear and concise. Most of these phrases will be built around the ERS/ATS interpretive algorithms. However, phrases addressing borderline values, seemingly conflicting patterns, and graphical analyses will be included. In the end, it is hoped that the proposed standardized terminology/phraseology system will be a useful tool for clinicians and designers of automated (AI) programs.

Biography

Prof. Neil Ross MacIntyre, MD is Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, USA, and is internationally recognised as one of the leading authorities in pulmonary and critical care medicine. Throughout his distinguished career, he has made significant contributions to the fields of mechanical ventilation, respiratory failure, and intensive care medicine, helping to shape modern standards of critical care practice.