

Surf Report... May 2004

Dear fellow surfers,

Recent discussion on the RespiratoryScience-Australasia@yahoogroups.com bulletin board has raised the question of contraindications for spirometry. While most laboratory staff would be aware of the potential risks of challenge tests, such as inhaled methacholine or exercise tests, few would consider spirometry a "risky" test. So where can you go to find out what potential risks for a given test may be?

The usual source of information in the RFL would be the ATS guidelines for a specific test. Yet for this particular situation there is no information. The [ATS Laboratory Management and Procedure](#) manual does have some information. However this is more a consensus document and careful attention needs to be paid to the reasoning behind stated conclusions, before they can be adopted. There is of course a wide range of guidelines available and many are freely available on the net.

The [American Association for Respiratory Care](#) through it's official journal Respiratory Care has clinical practice guidelines for a wide range of respiratory related tests and procedures on the net.

Other International Respiratory Societies with guidelines on the net are the [British Thoracic Society](#) and the [American Thoracic Society](#). Some centres may have difficulty in accessing some articles due to subscription rights. Those listed above should be able to be accessed by all members and didn't require passwords or log-ins to access them. If you do have trouble accessing this information the local Medical library may be able to help.

Happy Surfing

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