

# Official PFT Guides

<b>Official Guides</b>
<a href="#">ATS Rapid Interpretation Guide</a>
<a href="#">2010 GOLD Spirometry Guide</a>
<a href="#">2022 ERS/ATS Interpretive Strategies for PFTs</a>

## Interpretation Position

### Why I use GOLD Criteria

At UMMC, PFTs do report LLN and reference value (pop mean?) but not percentiles or z scores.

One can back-calculate the SD using  $\sigma = \frac{\text{LLN} - \text{ref}}{-1.65}$  (this assumed LLN on our reports corresponds to 5th percentile).

Once  $\sigma$  is known for the each value (e.g.,  $\sigma_{\text{FVC}} \neq \sigma_{\text{FEV1}} \neq \sigma_{\text{RV}}$ ), you could then use  $z = \frac{\text{PT}_{\text{value}} - \text{ref}}{\sigma}$  and refer to the tables below to grade severity.

Given the complexity of this, using ERS/ATS for diagnosing and grading abnormalities is not possible.

Therefore, I use GOLD criteria.

## Step-by-Step to Interpreting PFTs

### Assess Flow-Volume Loops

1. Are the loops similar between attempts?
  1. YES: Skip to next
  2. NO: See first page's comment if ATS reproducibility criteria was met
2. Roughly speaking, do the loops appear obstructive or restrictive?

### Assess Spirometry

#### Spirometric Severity

#### ATS Criteria

[Source](#)

Grade	FEV1 z score	Severity
NA	-1.65 to -2.5	Mild
NA	-2.51 to -4.0	Moderate
NA	<-4.1	Severe

## GOLD Criteria

### Source

Grade	FEV1 Percent Predicted	Severity
1	≥80%	Mild
2	50% – 79%	Moderate
3	30% – 49%	Severe
4	<30% or <50% with CHRF	Very Severe

## Bronchodilator Response

### ERS/ATS Definition

1. Required:
  1. BDR >10%
1. Calculation
  1.  $\$ BDR = \frac{FEV1_{\text{postBD}} - FEV1_{\text{preBD}}}{FEV1_{\text{predicted}}}$

### Important NOTE:

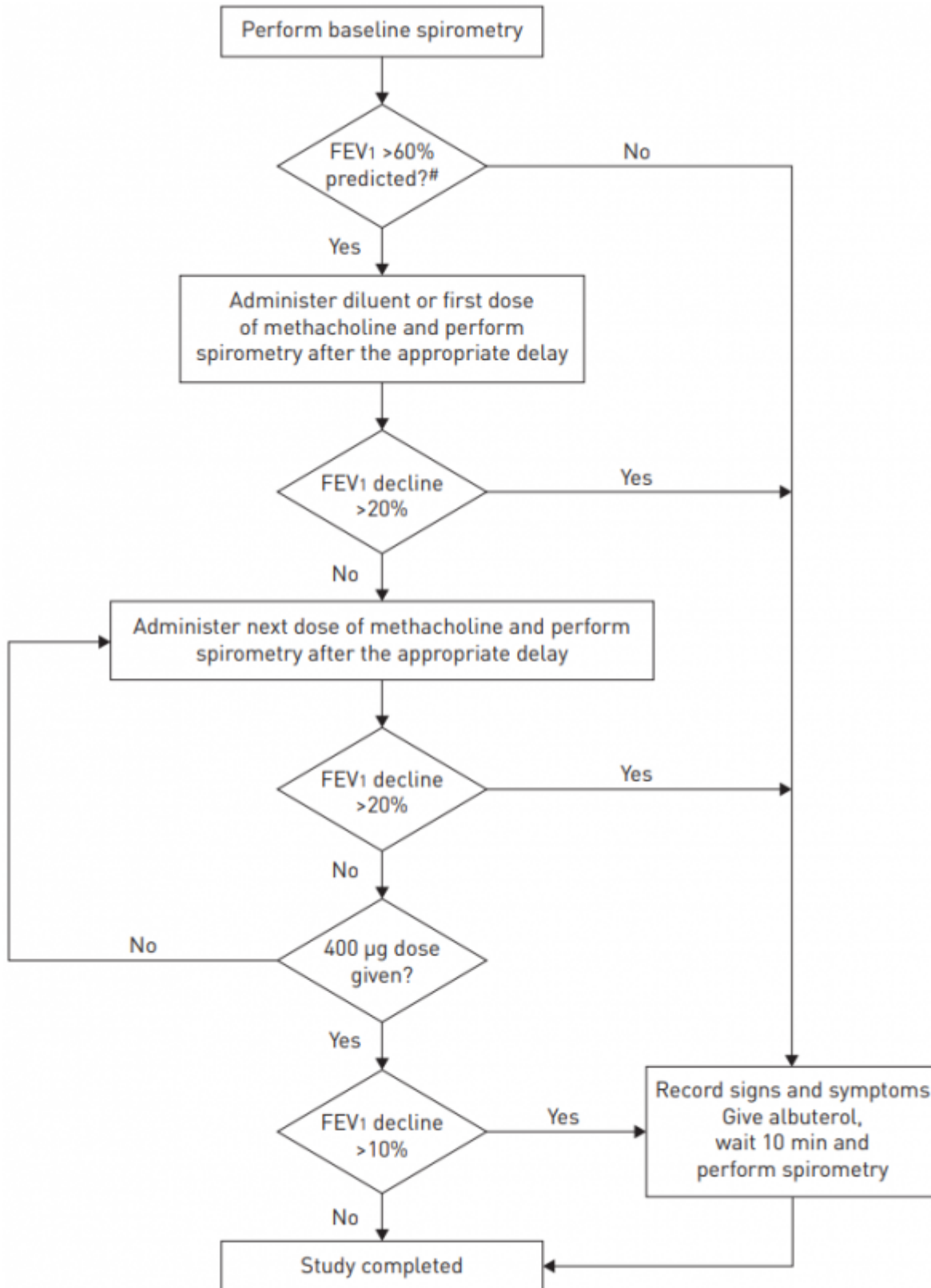
1. Calculation is not
  1.  $\$ BDR = \frac{FEV1_{\text{postBD}} - FEV1_{\text{preBD}}}{FEV1_{\text{preBD}}}$
2. Does NOT require
  1.  $\Delta FEV1_{\text{volume}} > 200 \text{ mL}$

### GOLD Definition

1. Required:
  1.  $\$ BDR > 12\%$
  2.  $\Delta FEV1_{\text{volume}} \geq 200 \text{ mL}$
1. Calculation
  1.  $\$ BDR = \frac{FEV1_{\text{postBD}} - FEV1_{\text{preBD}}}{FEV1_{\text{preBD}}}$
  2. **NOTE: this differs from ERS/ATS calculation**

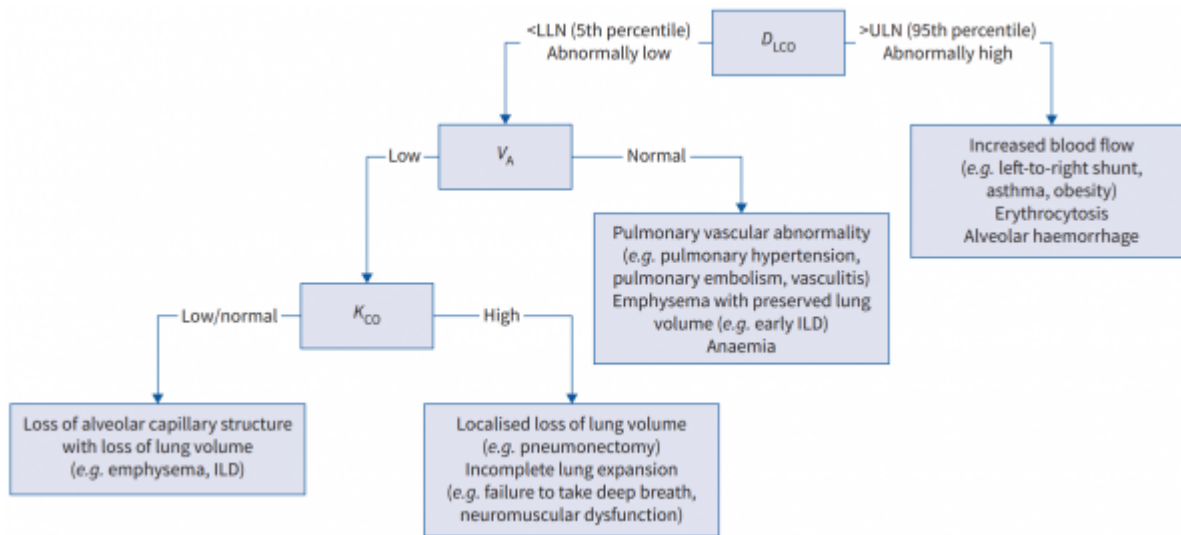
## Methacholine Challenge

### Source, ERS 2017



## DLCO Severity

### ERS / ATS Definition



### Source

Grade	FEV1 z score	Severity
NA	-1.65 to -2.5	Mild
NA	-2.51 to -4.0	Moderate
NA	<-4.1	Severe

### Gold Definition

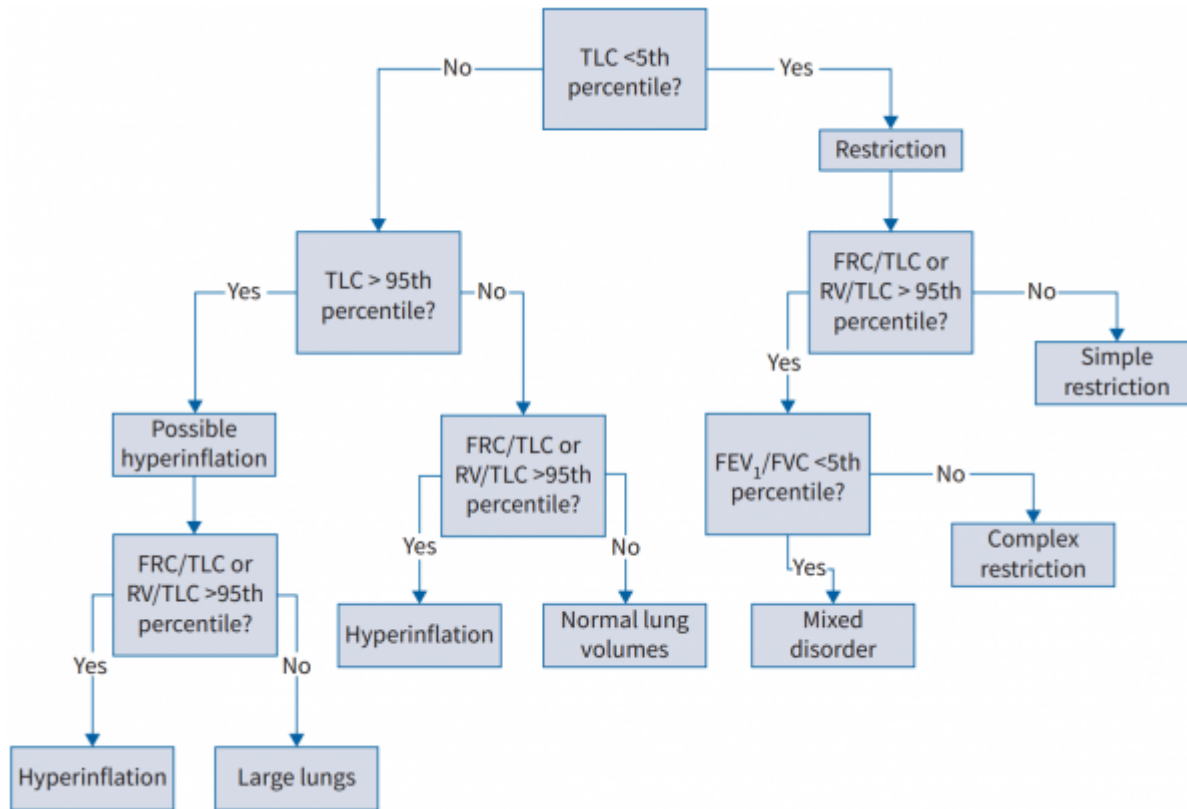
DLCO Percent Predicted	Severity
>140%	Abnormally High
76%-140%	Normal
61-75%	Mild
41-60%	Moderate
<40%	Severe

## Assessing Restriction

### ATS Criteria

#### Source, pg 17

1. Check spiro
  1. Is  $FVC \cdot z_{\text{score}} \leq -1.65$  (e.g. < 5th percentile)?
    1. Yes: get lung volumes
    2. No: no restriction
2. Check lung volumes
  1. Is  $TLC \cdot z_{\text{score}} \leq -1.65$  (e.g. < 5th percentile)?



Source

Grade	FEV1 z score	Severity
NA	-1.65 to -2.5	Mild
NA	-2.51 to -4.0	Moderate
NA	<-4.1	

**GOLD Definition**

1. Required:
  1. FVC <80% predicted

^ TLC Percent Predicted ^ Severity ^

>70%	Mild
50%-69%	Moderate
<50%	Severe

**Other Lung Volumes**

VC: ↓ in restriction, ↓ in air trapping RV & FRC: ↑ with air trapping RV & FRC: ↓ with restriction ERV: ↓ in obesity

**Lung Volume**

FRC is the primary thing calculated in lung volume calculations.

# Other

## Plethysmography

### Boyle's Law

- $P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$
- $\implies V_{\text{tg}} = 970 \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta P}$

$$\text{FRC} = \text{ERV} + \text{RV}$$

$$\text{TLC} = \text{VC} + \text{RV}$$

### Helium

- Helium is used because He doesn't cross the alveolar-capillary membrane
  - $C_1V_1 = C_2(V_1+V_2)$
  - $\implies V_2 = V_1 \left( \frac{C_1}{C_2} - 1 \right)$
  - **limitations** since inhalation done only for a few minutes, would get into poorly ventilated lungs, so will underestimate FRC

### Nitrogen

Method for calculation is similar to [Helium](#) method.

From:  
<https://ewrobbins.com/> - ewrobbins.com

Permanent link:  
[https://ewrobbins.com/doku.php?id=resources:pulm:interpreting\\_pfts&rev=1703260725](https://ewrobbins.com/doku.php?id=resources:pulm:interpreting_pfts&rev=1703260725)

Last update: **2023/12/22 15:58**

