

What is COPD?

COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder) is a long-term lung disease usually caused by smoking. COPD includes a few lung diseases including bronchitis and emphysema. COPD slowly damages your airways.

What is Bronchitis?

Bronchitis is an inflammation of the air passages. The inflammation means the walls of your air passages are swollen and filled with extra sticky mucus. Airflow into and out of your lungs is partly blocked because of this inflammation.

What is Emphysema?

Emphysema is a chronic (long-term) lung disease that can get worse over time. It is usually caused by smoking. Having emphysema means some of the air sacs in your lungs are damaged, making it hard to breathe.



Your testing schedule:

Start Day: _____

Start Date: _____

Stop Day: _____

Stop Date: _____

Must return the pulse oximeter by

9:00 AM on: _____

Where can I find more information about Pulse Oximetry & COPD?

<http://www.medicinenet.com/oximetry/article.htm>

http://www.webmd.com/hw/lung_disease/hw32561.asp

Visit our Website:
www.palmettofamilymed.com

Pulse Oximeter

Testing the Oxygen Content of Your Blood



Palmetto Family Medicine

1655 Bernardin Ave., Suite 350

Columbia, SC 29204

(803)-256-2286

Fax (803)-256-1994

What is Pulse Oximetry?

Pulse oximetry is a non-invasive diagnostic test used for measuring the oxygenation of a patient's blood. The pulse oximeter is the device that performs the test. The device uses wavelengths of light to determine oxygen levels.

Why Use a Pulse Oximeter?

A pulse oximeter is the device used for performing the test. It has a sensor that is placed on the patient's finger tip.

This is useful in any setting where a patient's oxygenation is unstable or for assessment of a patient's oxygenation to determine the effectiveness of or need for supplemental oxygen.

What does a pulse oximeter measure?

- 1- Oxygen saturation in arterial blood (amount of oxygen in the blood)
- 2- Pulse rate

What Can the Test Determine?

There are many potential reasons why a pulse oximeter is being used on a patient. The test could be to determine sleep apnea, the presence of hypoxia, or the presence of a lung disorder, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

What is sleep apnea?

Sleep apnea is a disorder characterized by a reduction or cessation (pause) of breathing or airflow during sleep. A pulse oximetry test can be done to confirm a suspected case.



What is hypoxia?

Hypoxia is a condition in which there is an inadequate supply of oxygen in the blood. Hypoxia is caused by:

- A reduction in partial pressure of oxygen
- Inadequate oxygen transport
- The inability of the tissues to use oxygen

Instructions for using the Pulse Oximeter

- 1- Place probe on finger. (If applicable, wear wrist band.)
- 2- Turn base unit on.
- 3- Go to sleep (if you wake up in the middle of the night, continue to wear the oximeter).
- 4- When you awake in the morning, take the probe off your finger and turn the unit off.
- 5- Bring the oximeter in before 9:00 am.

