

Clinical Examination Station 5

9 minutes with up to 1 minute for feedback

Your FY1 who has been in pre-clerking comes to find you. He has been seeing a patient who is due to come in for a Whipples procedure in 2weeks. He thinks that the patients chest sounds are abnormal, and wants you to come and assess the patient. Proceed to perform a full respiratory examination on the patient.

Respiratory Examination

Performs an appropriate examination of the respiratory system

Presents findings coherently and succinctly, commenting on scars, chest expansion, percussion and auscultatory findings.

What in the history would you want to know in order to assess fitness for surgery?

- PMH: Angina, MI, any admissions to ITU for respiratory support etc.
- Recent upper respiratory tract infection?
- SMOKING history
- EXERCISE TOLERANCE

What additional investigations would you request in view of your findings, and who else would you inform?

- Investigations
 - Chest radiograph
 - Peak flow
 - Spirometry
 - Arterial blood gas
- Inform
 - Consultant surgeon responsible
 - Anaesthetist responsible for the list

What values in particular are you looking for in spirometry (and definitions)?

- Forced vital capacity (FVC) - *the volume of air that can forcibly be exhaled after full inspiration*
- Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second (FEV₁) – *the volume of air forcibly exhaled in one second*

The FEV₁/FVC ratio comes back as 50%. What is normal and what does this value indicate?

- Normal = 70-80%
- 50% indicates an obstructive airway disease – due to the FEV₁ being diminished because of increased airway resistance to expiratory flow.

What is the ‘ASA’ score and what do the scores mean?

- ASA = American Society of Anaesthesiologists score, is a global score that assesses the physical status of patients before surgery.
 - ASA 1 – normal healthy patient
 - ASA 2 – mild systemic disease
 - ASA 3 – severe systemic disease
 - ASA 4 – severe systemic disease which is a constant threat to life
 - ASA 5 – moribund patient who is not expected to survive

Overall impression of the candidate Please encircle your mark

FAIL BORDERLINE FAIL BORDERLINE PASS PASS

If you have any specific comments about this candidate please write them in the box.