

Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT)

What is it?

A pulmonary function test (PFT) is a breathing test that shows the doctor how well the lungs are working.

Why is it helpful?

The PFT results show how narrowed the airways are and how well the asthma is controlled.

How is it done?

PFT's are performed by a respiratory therapist. The test is performed by taking a big, deep breath and blowing into a tube as hard as possible until all of the air has been blown out of the lungs. The tube is connected to a computer which measures how much air is blown out and how fast it is blown out. This measurement is called a Flow Volume Curve. By looking at the curve, the doctors can tell how well the lungs are doing. Sometimes an aerosol treatment is given and the test is repeated.

