

# Spirometry in Diffuse Parenchymal Lung Diseases

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## Summary

A total 45 cases diagnosed to have diffuse parenchymal lung disease were taken for study and compared with 70 normal control subjects. The mean age of presentation of diffuse parenchymal lung disease (ILD) was 50.15 + 13.16 years. Male Female ration were 1.6:1 the commonest presenting symptoms are breathlessness and commonest clinical sign was fine mid to late in respiratory crackles.

A significant reduction ( $P < 0.05$ ) in mean value of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, FEV25-75% PEF and MVU has been obtained in ILD in compared with normal controls.

The mean value of FEV1/FVC (%) has been observed slightly raised in ILD cases compared with normal. The apparent difference was statistically non significant ( $P > 0.05$ ). The commonest ventilatory defect observed in ILD cases restrictive defect.

**Keywords:** - Interstitial Lung Diseases (ILD), Diffuse Parenchymal Lung Disease (DPLD), LILD.

## Introduction

Patients with diffuse parenchymal disease should undergo comprehensive pulmonary function testing, which includes, arterial or capillary blood gas analysis at best and under exertion, spirometry and body plethysmography, as well as measurement of the diffusion capacity using carbon monoxide on a tracer in single-breath method (DLCO).<sup>[1,2,3,4]</sup>

In addition, measurement of compliance is pulmonary function tests are in general not able to support a specific LILD diagnosis but, they are necessary to assess the respiratory limitations and to monitor the disease during follow up.<sup>[2,3]</sup> Lung function abnormalities reflect the effects of interstitial inflammation and scarring resulting in a restrictive ventilatory deficit and impaired gas exchange. Airways obstruction and emphysema are not feature of ILD, may be present when chronic obstruct pulmonary disease or bronchial asthma coexists in the patient.<sup>[5]</sup>

During Follow-up, changes in lung function parameters are widely used and helpful for diseases monitoring.<sup>[6]</sup>

Marginal decline in forced vital capacity in IPF 5% to 10% during and observation period of 6 months is indicative of increased mortality.<sup>[7]</sup> DLCO and Blood gases are less established prognostic indicator but there parameter can support to the clinical relevance of marginal changes in forced vital capacity. Calculated lung function indices also

helpful to objectify the course and prognosis of the disease.<sup>[8]</sup>

ILD refers to a large group of lung disorders that affect the interstitium, which is the connective tissue that forms the support structure of the alveoli (air sacs) of the lungs. Normally when you inhale, the alveoli fill with air and oxygen passes into the blood stream. When you exhale, carbon dioxide passes from the blood into the alveoli and is then expelled from the body. When interstitial disease is present, the lung becomes inflamed and stiff, preventing the alveoli from fully expanding. This limits both the delivery of oxygen to the blood stream and the removal of carbon dioxide from the body. As the disease progresses, the interstitium and the walls of the alveoli thicken, which further impedes lung function.

The most common symptoms of diffuse interstitial lung disease are shortness of breath and dry cough. As the disease progresses, weight loss, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue may also occur. At a more advanced stage, individuals may develop an enlarged heart, enlargement of the fingertips (clubbing), and cyanosis (blue coloration in the lips, skin and fingernails as a result of reduced oxygen levels in the blood). Individuals might also experience nonrespiratory symptoms, such as muscle pain, joint pain, or thickening or

tightness of the skin, particularly in the presence of autoimmune disease.

## Materials and Methods

Spirometry in diffuse parenchymal lung disease was conducted at Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College, in the department of Pulmonary Medicine, Durg. During the period of September 2015 to December 2017.

Patients with history of progressive cough, dyspnoea, chest X-Ray findings of bilateral reticular shadows at bases of lungs, peripheral reticular, cystic, linear, nodular lesions and ground glass density or non specific reticular nodular pattern were the findings interpreted as consistent with DPLD, DPLD were considered as a case.

Patients diagnosed malignancy, pulmonary tuberculosis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, acute coronary syndrome, acute haemoptysis, recent surgery of eye, abdomen, thorax, respiratory infection at least two weeks prior to test, patients with immune suppressive therapy and patients below 14 yr of age were excluded.

A total of 45 cases were classified as Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis collagen vascular disease, sarcoidosis extrinsic allergic alveolitis, pneumoconiosis, pulmonary eosinophilia, alveolar proteinases, and alveolar microlithiasis. All the above patients undergone

computerized Spirometry with DATOSPIRO-70 Spirometry.

Spirometric test also carried out on 17 normal controls. All Patients consent was taken. Other special investigations like ABG, pulseoxymetry, HRCT, Chest X-Ray, Serum ACE, ECG, liver and Renal function, complete hemogram, Iron markers, sputum analysis have done from the various measured lung function test parameters FVC, FEV<sub>1</sub>, PEF, FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC and MUV were selected for study,

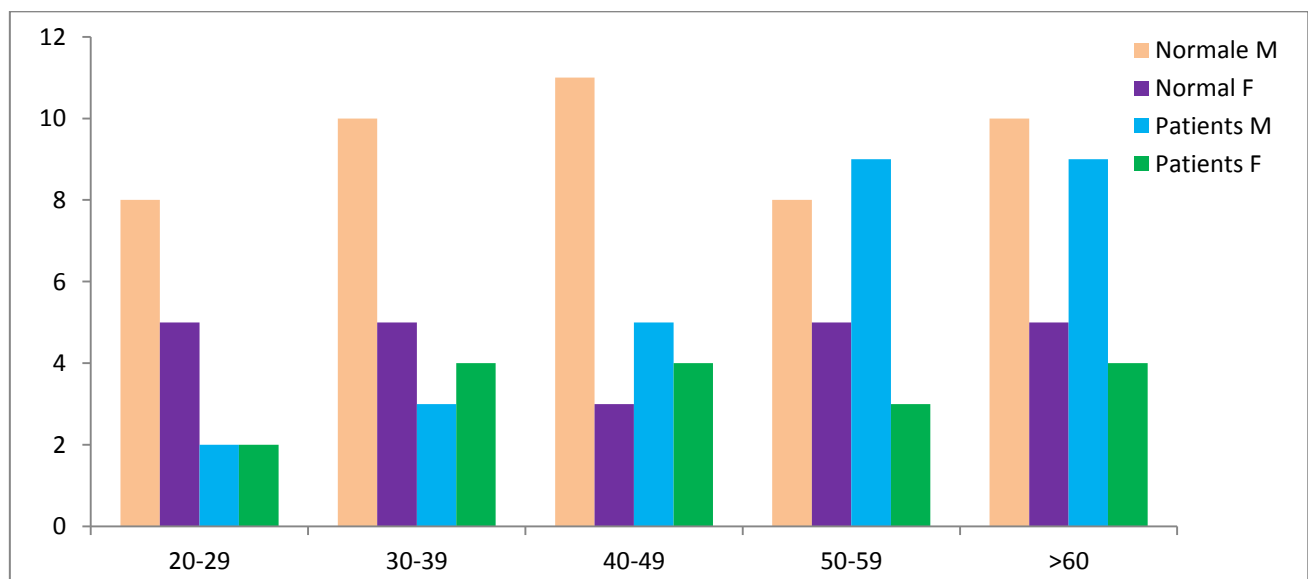
- 1) Where normal values of FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC was more than 75% and FVC as per % of predicted was more than 70%.
- 2) Obstructive Ventilatory defects = FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC was > 75% and FVC was more than or equal to 70%
- 3) Restrictive Ventilatory defects = when the FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC were 75% or above but FVC was below 70% of predicted.
- 4) Combined i.e. - obstructive as well as restrictive Ventilatory defects - when both FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC and FVC as a percentage of predicted was below normal.

## Observations and Results

Age and sex distribution among 45 cases were 28 males and 17 females and were healthy controls with 47 males and 23 females. The age distribution on her table no-1

**Table -1 Age and Sex wise Distribution of normal and cases.**

Age in Yr.	Normal		Cases	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
20-29	8	5	2	2
30-39	10	5	3	4
40-49	11	3	5	4
50-59	8	5	9	3
>60	10	5	9	4
Total	47	23	28	17



**Table-2 Various Patterns of DPLD**

Sr. No	Disease Group	No. of Patients N=45	Percentage
1	Collagen vascular disease	14	31.00
2	Idiopathic Pulmonary & fibrosis	12	26.67
3	Sarcoidosis	4	8.67
4	Pneumoconiosis	4	8.89
5	Pulmonary Eosinophilia	7	15.50
6	Extrinsic Allergic alveolitis	2	4.40
7	Alveolar Proteinases	1	2.22
8	Alveolar Microlithiasis	1	2.22

The most common disease was Collagen vascular disease 14 (31%) followed by Idiopathic Pulmonary & fibrosis 12 (15.5%), sarcoidosis 4 (8.89%) and other as shown in above Table-II

**Table 3: Ents (spirometric value in control)**

Parameters	Control Group N=70		Cases (N=45)		Significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
FUC (Ctrs)	3.27	0.70	2.26	0.85	P<0.05
FEV <sub>1</sub> (Ctrs)	2.64	0.56	1.87	0.66	P<0.05
FEF Ltrs (25.75%)	2.99	0.67	1.92	0.84	P<0.05
PEF (Ltrs)	5.07	1.62	3.82	1.39	P<0.05
MUV (Ltr/Min)	80.33	18.24	63.31	21.78	P<0.05
FEV/FVC (%)	82.00	3.11	83.54	11.07	P<0.05

Pulmonary Function test (Spiro meters) value obtained in as per Table III

**Table 4: Types of ventilatory defects in dpld**

Type of Defects	No. of Patient (N=45)	Percentage
Restrictive	37	82.22
Combined	5	11
Obstructive	2	4.44
Normal	1	2.22

It was observed that the highest number of patients had a restrictive ventilatory defects followed by combined obstructive and normal ventilatory functions.

## Discussion

In our study median age of male and female was 52.5 and 48 years. Minimum patients (26.61%) were age group of 50-59 years. Most of the patients (75.59) were aged 40 yr and above. Maheshwari et.al.<sup>[9]</sup> studied 76 patients: their mean age was 50.5 ± 11.9. Median age of male and female was 52 and 49 year respectively. Similar observation had been made by Abul et.al Subhas et.al and Agrawal et.al.<sup>[10-12]</sup> Male to female ratio in our study were 1.6:1 whereas study by Gupta et.al,<sup>[13]</sup> Alhuwalia et.al,<sup>[14]</sup> Abul et.al<sup>[10]</sup> was 1.5:1, 4:1, 1.20:1 respectively.

In our study the collagen vascular disease is the most common variant of DPLD that in 31% and this correlate with previous workers Sharma et.al, Jindal et.al<sup>[15-16]</sup> and the percentage of IPF was 26.67% correlated with Sharma et.al. they reported 29% cases. In our study Pneumoconiosis alveolar proteinosis, alveolar Micro lithiasis was observed that probably because our patients are coming from

industrial belt of Chhattisgarh. In our study the mean value of FVC, FEV, FEF, 125-75%, PEF and MVV were found to be significant reduced (P<0.05) in comparison to normal controls. DPLD are characterized by restrictive lung function by which is mean a reduction in lung volumes with ratio of post expiratory volume in 1 sec. to forced vital capacity (FVC) is normal or greater than normal Cushey M.J., Chetta et.al, Martinez et.al<sup>[17-19]</sup> reported that the static lung volumes are typically reduced in DPLD. Similar observations was made by boros et. At.<sup>[20]</sup> In our study the mean FVC of DPLD cases was 2.36± 0.85 and mean FVC% of predicated was 58.92±13.86. In study done by Jindal et.al.<sup>[16]</sup> and Sharma et.al.<sup>[15]</sup> the mean vital capacity among Indian subject with DPLD in noted to be less than 55 to 66% for the predicted values this correlated with present study.

Based on the valued of FVC and FEV/FUC % the ventilatory defect in DPLD has been observed to be of three types namely obstructive, restrictive and combination of

both mixed pattern. The commonest ventilatory defect observed in our study in the restrictive one.

The percentage of patients with each type of ventilatory defect as observed by previous workers as well as present study has been shown in below table.

**Table 5**

Type of Defect	Abal Etal (200 It) as %	Maheshwari etal as %	Present Study as %
Restrictive	87	81.2	82
Combined	1N	-	11
Obstructive		1.56	4.44
Normal		17.21	2.22

A restrictive pattern of lung function is probably the commonest pattern, but a proportion of patients have preserved lung volumes or air flow obstruction.<sup>[21]</sup> A mixed pattern of obstructive and restrictive abnormalities may also be found in DPLD associated with COPD or asthma or recurrent bronchospasm including Churg-Strauss syndrome, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis and tropical pulmonary eosinophilia.<sup>[21]</sup>

Our study is probably one of the few studies from India that has looked at the spectrum of DPLD prospectively and has attempted a comparison between two of its largest contributors. However, the study has certain limitations, in that, the diffusing capacity of the lung could not be done for monitoring the disease progress; triple drug therapy versus supportive therapy in the IPF group was not randomized.

In conclusion the spectrum and clinical presentation of DPLD is largely similar to that in the western countries. Although Indian patients seem to develop the disease a decade earlier than their western counterparts. The function abnormalities are typical but not specific. Pulmonary function test can aid in the diagnosis of DPLD although it is not diagnostic. Base line PFTS may provide an estimate of Prognosis. It is possible to detect lung function abnormalities in diffusing parenchymal lung diseases by periodic spirometry before symptoms and radiological signs appear.

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