

## Contraindications to Pulmonary Function Testing.

Pulmonary function testing is generally considered safe for most individuals. Nevertheless, breathing tests can cause marked increases in both intra-thoracic and intra-abdominal pressures and for this reason testing is contraindicated for a variety of patient conditions. The risks and benefits for any individual patient should be considered whenever pulmonary function tests are ordered.

Contraindication:	Complication:	Likelihood:	Severity:	Risk:
MI (recent)	Death	5	5	25
MI (recent)	Further MI	5	5	25
PE (untreated)	Death	4	5	25
Ascending Aortic Aneurysm (>6 cm dilation)	Death	4	5	20
Ascending Aortic Aneurysm (>6 cm dilation)	MI	4	4	16
Pneumothorax	Lung collapse	3	4	12
Thoracic surgery	further surgery	3	4	12
Pneumothorax	Pain	5	2	10
Ascending Aortic Aneurysm (<6 cm dilation)	Death	2	5	10
Thoracic surgery	Death	2	5	10
Hemoptysis	Bleed	2	4	8
Angina	MI	2	4	8
Ascending Aortic Aneurysm (<6 cm dilation)	MI	2	4	8
Eye surgery (<1 week)	Undo surgery	2	3	6
Abdominal surgery	Pain	3	2	6
Thoracic surgery	Pain	3	2	6
Hemoptysis	Death	1	5	5
Pneumothorax	Discomfort	5	1	5
MI (>1 week)	Death	1	5	5
PE (treated)	Death	1	5	5
Hemoptysis	PE	1	4	4
Acute diarrhea	Discomfort	4	1	4
Abdominal surgery	Rupture	1	4	4
Angina	Pain	2	2	4
PE (treated)	Hypoxia	1	3	3
Eye surgery (<4 week)	Undo surgery	1	3	3
Eye surgery (<4 week)	Pain	1	2	2
MI (>1 week)	Pain	1	2	2

Likelihood:		Severity:		Risk:	
1	<1%	1	Discomfort	1-4	Low
2	2-10%	2	Pain	5-9	Moderate
3	11-20%	3	Syncope/bleeding	10-19	High
4	20-50%	4	Tissue Damage, minor surgery	20-25	Very High
5	>50%	5	Emergency care, major surgery, death		

Source: Cooper BG. An update on contraindications for lung function testing. Thorax 2011; 66: 714-723.