

Measuring Lung Capacity

Introduction:

The amount of air that you move in and out of your lungs depends on how quickly you are breathing. The amount of air that is moved in and out of the lungs when a person is breathing normally is called the **tidal volume**. This amount of air provides enough oxygen for the body when the person is resting. It is possible to **inhale more deeply and exhale more forcefully than usual**. The maximum amount of air moved in and out of the lungs when the deepest possible inhalation is followed by the strongest possible expiration is called the **vital capacity**. The amount of air that remains in the lungs after **exhaling normally but which can be expelled is the expiratory reserve**. A certain amount of air in the lungs cannot be expelled. This amount is called the **residual volume**.

Pre Lab Questions:

1. Why is it more important to measure tidal volume and vital capacity more than once and then calculate mean for these measurements?

It is important to take more than one measurement and to take the average because a person is not going to have the same results and exact measurements all three times.

2. What would you conclude if the balloon were smaller during your vital capacity measurement than during your tidal volume measurement?

In vital capacity you have more air in your lungs and in tidal you have less air in your lungs. So it will mean you have less air in your lungs.

3. List some possible sources of error that could occur during this experiment

You could be pushing more air out when you are doing your tidal volume than just what you breathe normally. If you have a hole in the balloon. Or the balloon has a different volume.

4. Why might different people have different residual volume measurements?

However, residual volume can be unchanged despite expiratory muscle weakness.

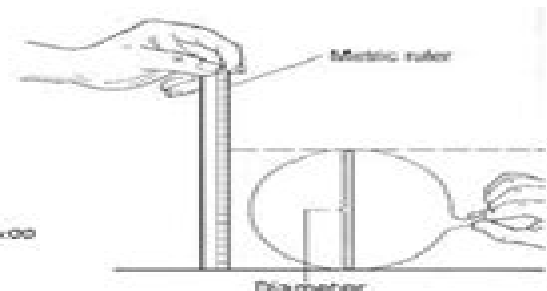
5. Why might a doctor want to determine the tidal volume or vital capacity of a patient?

To see how well a person's lungs work. Or when you workout to see how well your body will react

Procedure:

Part A: Measuring Tidal Volume

1. It is important to measure the tidal volume and vital capacity three times to ensure the accuracy of the measurements. When you do the exercise more than once, you can be positive of the results. Stretch a round



Measuring Lung Capacity Lab Answer Key

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