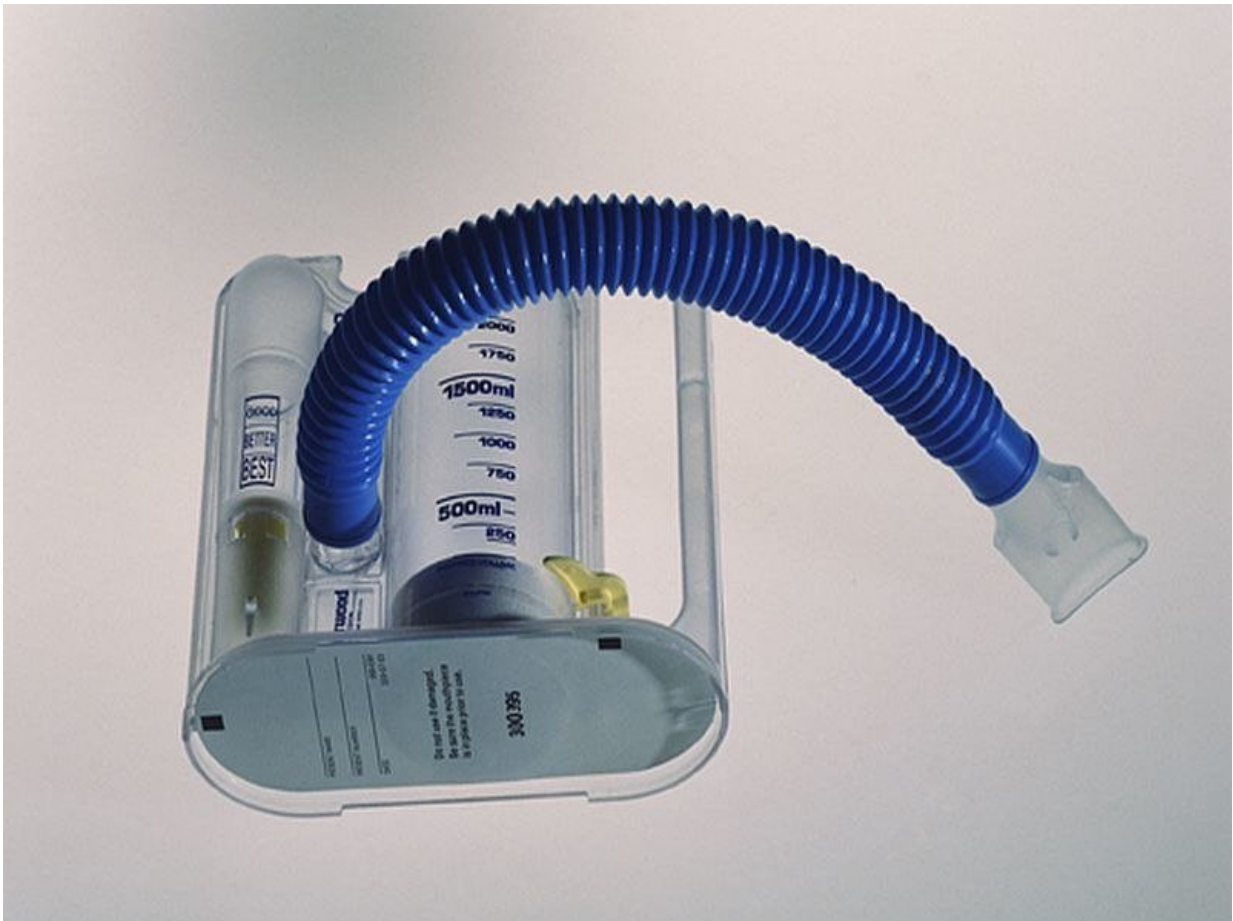


# Simple lung function tests in primary care help ID early COPD

April 1 2018

---



A peak flow meter or microspirometer can be used routinely in primary

care among patients with suspected chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) for early case identification, according to a study published online March 13 in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*.

Sarah J. Ronaldson, from the University of York in the United Kingdom, and colleagues evaluated the diagnostic accuracy of a series of simple lung function tests (spirometry, microspirometry, peak flow meter, and WheezoMeter) and symptom-based case-finding questionnaires to improve early identification of COPD cases in the [primary care](#) setting. Data on 216 current smokers ( $\geq 35$  years) were included in the analysis.

The researchers found that the most effective case-finding tools were the peak flow meter alone, the peak flow meter plus WheezoMeter, and microspirometry alone. In the main analysis, severity of [airflow obstruction](#) was based on fixed ratios and percent of predicted values. Additional sensitivity analyses were conducted using lower limit of normal values.

"Case finding in this way would reduce the number of individuals who receive spirometry unnecessarily, as only those testing positive to the peak flow meter or microspirometry would move on to quality diagnostic spirometric testing," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2018 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Simple lung function tests in primary care help ID early COPD (2018, April 1) retrieved 4 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-04-simple-lung-function-primary-id.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.