

Pulmonary function testing in lung cancer: Analysis and implications

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ABSTRACT

Objective: International norms and professional judgment are the main foundations for the use of pulmonary function testing. The description of a common pattern is currently described using predetermined cut-offs. Based on the ATS/ERS (American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society) interpretation approach, we sought to investigate the anticipated illness outcome. Then, we looked at whether different decision trees that integrated lung function with clinical characteristics may lead to a more precise diagnosis using an impartial machine learning framework.

Materials and methods: Data from 968 participants who were first admitted to a pulmonary clinic were included in our research. Complete pulmonary function and studies that were chosen at the doctor's discretion formed the basis of the final clinical diagnosis. Clinical diagnoses were divided into ten categories and approved by a panel of experts.

Results: The ATS/ERS algorithm correctly diagnosed 38%. Only Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) was accurately diagnosed (74%). After 10-fold cross-validation, the new data-based decision tree raised detection accuracy to 68% for the most common lung disorders, with COPD, asthma, interstitial lung disease, and neuromuscular condition having considerably better positive predictive values and sensitivity.

Conclusion: Our findings demonstrate that computer-based selection of lung function and clinical variables and associated decision-making criteria may enhance the present algorithms for lung function interpretation.

Keywords: sleep disorder, drug-induced sleep endoscopy, obstructive sleep apnea

INTRODUCTION

The malignant cells in lung tissue proliferate and develop out of control, giving rise to a tumour that gives lung cancer its name. Generally speaking, lung cancer may be split into two categories. Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) and Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). NSCLC accounts for 85% of lung cancer diagnoses. In general, its development and dissemination are slower than those of SCLC. Non-small cell lung cancer has three primary subtypes: adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and giant cell carcinoma. However, compared to different varieties of lung cancer, SCLC is an increasingly rough form that develops and spreads quickly enough. It's responsible for around 15% of lung cancer diagnoses [1]. In Poland and around the globe, the most common malignancy is lung cancer. According to the available information, around 14% all of new instances of cancer in Poland are caused by lung cancer. It's important to note that it causes around one-third of all cancer fatalities. With approximately 18.4% of all cancer fatalities, lung cancer carries on being the most common and lethal form of the disease globally. The stage of cancer at diagnosis has a major role in lung cancer prognosis, and athletic status and losing weight before being diagnosed are important prognostic indicators in advanced lung malignancies [2].

Cigarette smoking, passive smoking, radon gas exposure, certain chemical and material exposures, and personal or family past lung cancer are all dangerous elements for this disease. Coughing up blood, wheezing, hoarseness, chest discomfort, shortness of breath, wheezing, and recurrent respiratory infections like bronchitis or pneumonia are all possible symptoms of lung cancer. X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs, as well as biopsies taken from the tumour, are often used in the identification of lung cancer. Different types and stages of lung cancer, as well as the patient's general condition, need different treatment approaches. Tumour removal surgery, chemotherapy, radiation treatment, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy are all possible treatments. The prognosis for lung cancer varies significantly based on the nature and stage of the disease as well as other factors including the age of the individual and general health. Lung cancer could be challenging to diagnose in its early stages since indications might not surface once cancer has advanced, but early identification and treatment can improve outcomes for individuals with the condition [3]. The disorder that impacts the lungs and might be fatal is lung cancer. Depending on the theatrical and nature of the

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disease, the consequences of lung cancer may be both mental and physical. Breathing may become harder as cancer worsens, causing shortness of breath even with very little physical exertion. Lung cancer often manifests as a persistent cough that may become worse with time. Chest pain or discomfort may be a symptom of lung cancer or a side effect of therapy, and it can affect certain individuals with the disease. A lack of appetite or the body's higher energy needs brought about due to the illness may induce a decrease in weight in people with lung cancer. It is essential to remember that lung cancer may be treated and detected promptly, which can assist improve outcomes and lessen the severity of these consequences. An improved prognosis is shown in non-small cell lung tumours with a ground-glass opacity component compared to solid nodules of comparable consolidation size [4]. To get accurate measurements for the initial workup, diagnosis, and follow-up of respiratory illness, pulmonary function testing is an essential part of the assessment. However, the effectiveness of the different pulmonary function tests in children has only been the subject of a relatively small number of investigations. The goal of this research assessment's objectives was to offer a brief description of the various PFTs that could be useful in the assessment and patient-keeping an eye on children of different age groups, as well as to offer pertinent common practices and references relating to age. Another goal of the study was to discuss the findings of earlier research studies that used child patients for PFTs [5].

The term "pulmonary function" describes the lungs' capacity to transport air into and out of the human body while transferring oxygen and carbon dioxide with the blood. Several tests, including spirometry, lung volume measurements, and diffusion capacity tests, may be used to assess pulmonary function. Inspections of pulmonary function are frequently utilized to identify and keep track of lung diseases such as pulmonary fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma. They could be used by medical professionals to gauge the extent of a patient's lung condition, track the progression of the sickness, and evaluate the way a treatment is performed [6]. The examination and treatment of lung cancer often include the use of Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT), a crucial diagnostic technique. PFT is a non-invasive test that assesses lung function by taking measurements of several factors such as lung volumes, air flow rates, and gas exchange. PFT may be utilized to assess the severity of lung cancer and choose the most appropriate therapies. Additionally, it may be used to assess the efficacy of therapies and track the course of therapy. Lung cancer may be detected and tracked with PFT in addition to other imaging procedures such as chest X-rays, computed tomography scans, and magnetic resonance imaging. To adequately address the condition, a multifaceted strategy comprising pulmonologists, radiologists, and oncologists is often required. The treatment of lung cancer may be significantly impacted by the PFT values. The treatment strategy may need to be changed if the PFT shows a severe decline in lung function. Patients with impaired lung function, for instance, may discover it harder to endure chemotherapy or surgery. Alternative therapeutic alternatives may need to be taken into account in such circumstances. The potential of postoperative problems in individuals having surgery for lung cancer may also be evaluated by PFT. Patients who have impaired lung function are more likely to have postoperative complications including pneumonia and respiratory failure. PFT may assist in identifying high-risk patients and aid with anaesthesia management and surgical method selection [7]. Our goal was to

determine if PFT interpretation for labelling respiratory diseases might be automated in this research. The expected illness outcome was examined in a large population using a computer algorithm we created due to the ATS/ERS interpretation technique. Then looked at whether new decision-making algorithms that come from a machine learning framework may lead to a more precise diagnosis. The paper provided an extensive examination of the data in Favor of physical activity and activity in lung cancer and makes the case that the best plan of action could be to incorporate this type of treatment into a comprehensive, multifaceted strategy that also considers nutritional and psychological factors [8]. The most common kind of cancer that results in mortality globally is lung cancer. Despite the advancements made in terms of the effectiveness of therapy, affected people typically face debilitating signs and symptoms of an illness, such as dyspnoea, cough, sleeplessness, exhaustion, depression, anxiety, and pain. The goal of was to determine the effects of a home-based, short-term, multidisciplinary prehabilitation program on sufferers having video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery lobectomy treat non-small cell lung cancer patients' postoperative functioning [9]. During surgery, patients with lung cancer often suffer a decline in their functional capacity and lifestyle quality. In the research, patients with non-small cell lung cancer receiving video-assisted thoracic surgery lobectomy are evaluated for their postoperative results concerning improved healing during surgery routes [10]. Based on elements like age, sex, comorbidities, surgery type, pre-treatment pulmonary functions, and ASA score, a propensity score-matched analysis was carried out. The paper looked at ICI-P in patients, particularly those battling advanced NSCLC, and discusses its prevalence, clinical and radiological appearance, and outcome [11]. The duration of the clinical picture differs according to whether the ICI is taken alone or in conjunction with another ICI or chemotherapy, and these changes are highlighted. The research developed systemic therapeutics for non-metastatic lung cancer and analyses the existing and prospective status of care for patients diagnosed at the beginning of the disease [12]. Patients diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer often get curative-intent therapy. The mode of final local therapy and the related systemic medications to further increase the chance of cure are determined after multidisciplinary talks of surgical respectability and medical operability. After surgical resection or in conjunction with radiation treatment, cisplatin-based adjuvant therapy has been proven to be effective. The study presented the long-term effects associated with the re-accrued SABR connecting in the updated STARS trial, as well as a procedure-specified tendency-matched contrast with an in the future registered, modern organizational cohort of patients that went through video-assisted thoracoscopic surgical lobectomy with mediastinal lymphoid dissecting [13].

The study is to assess the accuracy of three model's relative seriality, parallel, and Lyman-Kutcher-Burman typical tissue difficulties chances in predicting the incidence of radiation pneumonitis in a sample of patients receiving radiotherapy for lung cancer, as well as the relationship between these models and pulmonary function tests [14]. The investigation was based on 47 others with stage three giving non-small-cell lung cancer radiation treatment. The research looked at lung cancer patients who had received a COVID-19 diagnosis in a group and assessed severity according to whether or not they had previously received PD-1 blocking treatment [15]. It might be predicted; earlier smoke was linked to PD-1 blockage. PD-1 blocker consumption was not linked to

an elevated incidence of COVID-19 severity after controlling for smoking status. The severity of COVID-19 in those who have lung cancer does not seem to be impacted by PD-1 blocking. The paper discussed that lung cancer patients are particularly susceptible to coronavirus disease in 2019 due to a greater than sevenfold greater danger of contracting respiratory emergency, severe syndrome coronavirus 2 COVID-19, a greater than threefold increased risk of hospitalization due to elevated difficulties costs, and a projected mortality rate of over thirty percent [16]. The research was to characterize the lung function of individuals recuperating from a COVID-19 hospital stay and to find biomarkers in their blood and generated sputum specimens [17]. Veterans of the 2019 coronavirus epidemic are experiencing persistent issues following hospital release. There is a dearth of knowledge on this period of recovery or the virus's continuing impact on pulmonary function and inflammation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study population

The research encompassed information from 968 participants in the BPFs, a potential cohort investigation that recruited a

medical depending on population samples of all subsequent unidentified individuals that were hospitalized for their initial visit within the 33-collaborating owing to breathing-related side effects. A comprehensive PFT, that involved “post-bronchodilator spirometry”, whole-body plethysmography for lung Intensity and obstruction to airflow, and dispersing ability, was completed by all recruited individuals, who were all Caucasians between the ages of 18 years and 75 years. All required further tests, involving imaging, an ECG, and other PFTs, is carried out at the doctor's discretion to determine a diagnosis of a respiratory ailment. Following the validation of each subject's ultimate diagnosis, 20 to 25 pulmonologists from local focus groups in hospitalized examined the outcomes of each test. Table 1 lists the baseline qualities for the research population. covering both healthy regulates in addition an array of respiration disorders it could demonstrate a disturbed PFT using a particular sequence, including hyperventilation, COPD, asthma, additional obstructions conditions, greater airway obstruction, systemic sclerosis, interstitial lung disease, obesity, and bronchiectasis [18]. Neuromuscular disorder combines people with chest cavity or pleural disease, and lung resection, due to comparable lung function problems (Table 1).

Tab. 1. Features of the population	Asthma	COPD	Heart Failure	ILD	HV	Obesity	Other Obstructive	PV	Healthy	NMD
Subjects, n	364	222	12	39	28	23	56	9	156	26
D _{lco} , %pred.	86(78-95)	59(48-70)	79(60-88)	54(41-63)	82(72-90)	83(75-95)	77(66-91)	69(47-86)	86(77-99)	67(50-80)
Age, years	50(34-60)	62(53-69)	72(59-78)	63(52-72)	45(35-52)	52(44-64)	57(47-67)	64(57-71)	54 (42-64)	54(41-65)
Gender, M/F	164/200	127/95	6/6	23/16	11/17	14/9	28/28	5/4	81/75	18/8
FEV ₁ /FVC, %	76(68-81)	60(51-66)	74(72-79)	80(75-85)	82(78-84)	81(78-83)	74(70-80)	77(73-83)	80(75-83)	81(76-83)
TLC, %pred.	104(93-115)	112(99-124)	85(81-99)	85(75-92)	108(97-113)	82(78-91)	102(93-111)	97(83-109)	105(96-112)	79(67-85)
FEV ₁ , %pred.	92(80-102)	64(51-80)	91(78-107)	85(72-107)	101(93-108)	86(74-100)	89(78-100)	98(87-110)	103(92-114)	67(59-81)
K _{co} , %pred.	98(86-110)	74(58-91)	101(77-114)	74(67-83)	90(79-97)	110(95-123)	92(83-107)	78(69-106)	94(82-104)	107(95-122)
FVC, %pred.	101(91-112)	88(73-105)	95(80-113)	86(74-104)	109(102-115)	86(77-100)	96(87-110)	99(87-118)	107(97-115)	70(56-82)

Pulmonary function tests

ATS/ERS requirements were followed in the execution of each PFT utilizing standardized tools. Spirometry information includes “post-bronchodilator” readings and is reported as a percentage anticipated based on typical baseline values, in addition to plethysmography measurements of airway resistance and lung capacities. A standardized oxygen and helium gas combination is used to assess the diffusing capacity for carbon monoxide, which was then represented as a percentage anticipated based on reference standards [19].

PFT interpretation algorithm

The ATS/ERS worldwide criteria were used for interpreting the PFTs. The application of a “post-bronchodilator” FEV₁/FVC constant 7%, in line with both gold and local clinical suggestions for establishing an identification of the illness obstructing the airways, represented a significant adjustment to the interrupted of

FEV₁/VC. Assessment of pulmonary function tests in clinical practices using an adapted ATS/ERS algorithm. Chronic obstructive lung disease, carbon monoxide diffusion capacity, and COPD FEV₁ stand for forced expiratory volume in one second. FVC is for forced vital capacity. ILD stands for interstitial lung disease. LLN stands for the reduced limit of normality. VC stands for vital capacity; TLC for the total capacity of the lungs. Figure 1 demonstrates the modified ATS/ERS algorithm for clinical PFT [20].

Computer algorithm and validation

In MATLAB 8.3, a method for dynamically interpreting all PFTs was developed. Based on measures of lung function, a novel decision tree was created utilizing the SMLT. Based on lung function data and patient variables including age, gender, CAT score, and BMI, a novel decision tree was created. Utilizing maximum deviance reduction, the ideal split criteria were identified. A stratified 10-fold cross-validation was carried out to prevent “overfitting” of the model and to determine the prediction precision of a decision

tree. In a nutshell, the training data were divided into 10 equivalent parts by chance, and ten fresh trees were trained on 9 of those categories before being verified using the training data from the

remaining segment. As a result of testing and refining new trees on fresh data, this strategy provides a higher estimate of the prediction accuracy of the decision tree that is created [21].

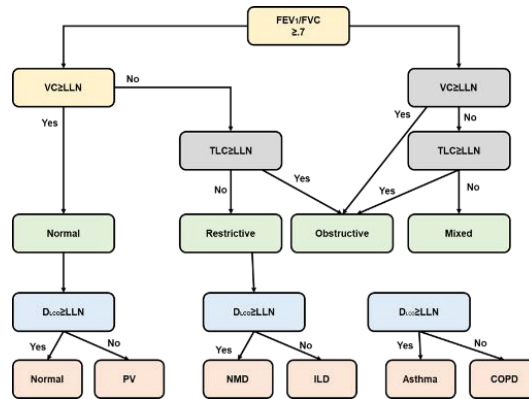


Fig. 1. Modified ATS/ERS algorithm for clinical pulmonary function evaluation

RESULTS

Abnormalities and diagnosis

Implementing the ATS/ERS technique found the healthy lung activity design was more frequent in a genuine medical population sample followed by an obstruction pattern, while restricted and combination patterns proved very rare. Just 25% of the participants with typical patterns were healthy, whereas just five percent of those who were truly healthy subjects exhibited an FEV1/FVC ratio below 7 (Figure 2). As anticipated, individuals with asthma, who have been shown for having normal pulmonary function under steady settings, exhibited a greater number of healthy patterns. Due to the new ATS/ERS guidelines, 197 of the 222 COPD patients exhibited an obstructed pattern; 25 of these patients had an FEV1/FVC ratio higher than 7 and perhaps identifiable as classified as COPD patients on the group of specialists due to Emphysema on CT, low DLCO, high resistance, or hyperinflation. Thirty percent of the asthma patients also had a restrictive pattern identified. Just one patient had a restrictive pattern, and while people who have NMD, ILD, or obesity showed up in the restrictive grouping, most of them were classified as healthy. The lower limit of normal for DLCO was employed as a threshold to divide the projected sequences of illness whenever the ATS/ERS algorithm continued to be used (Figure 3). It assisted in separating asthma from COPD in the obstruction category but lacked the specificity to detect pulmonary vascular sickness with a recognizable

pattern category or ILD in the restricted pattern category [22]. DLCO managed to properly diagnose 5 of the 6 patients with ILD, considering the reality that the majority of people with true ILD and NMD were discovered to have a usual lung function pattern before being placed in the restriction group. However, 10 out of 13 individuals had incorrect ILD diagnoses, which prevented DLCO from identifying NMD under the limited labelling. 38% of the individuals in the whole cohort were properly categorized. The accuracy rose to 46% when the population was limited to conditions that the ATS/ERS algorithm can diagnose. Asthma diagnosis had a 24% sensitivity and 94% specificity, COPD had a 73% sensitivity and 94% specificity, and ILD had a 13% sensitivity and 98% specificity. Figure 2 shows an in-depth analysis of the right and wrong categories.

The distribution of every lung condition inside every pattern of deviation is determined by the ATS/ERS decision-making process. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is referred to as COPD [23]. The ATS stands for the American Thoracic Society.

The distribution of each respiratory illness into various diagnostic classifications is determined by the ATS/ERS methodology. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Upper Airway Obstruction (UAO), Hyperventilation (HV), Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD), Neuromuscular Disorder (NMD), and Pulmonary Vascular Diseases (PVD).

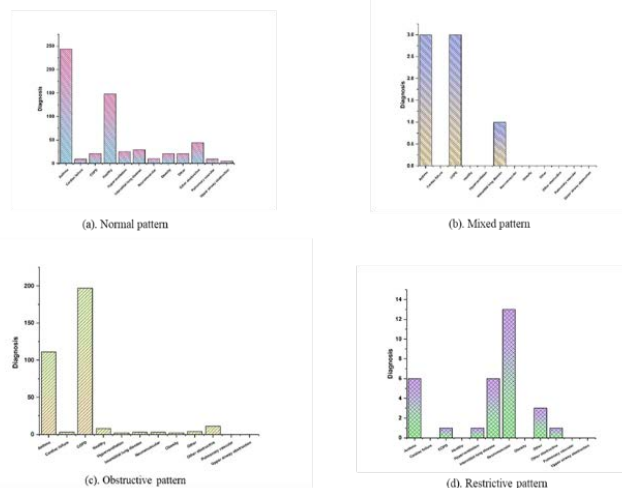


Fig. 2. Distribution of lung diseases within each pattern of abnormality according to the ATS/ERS decision tree

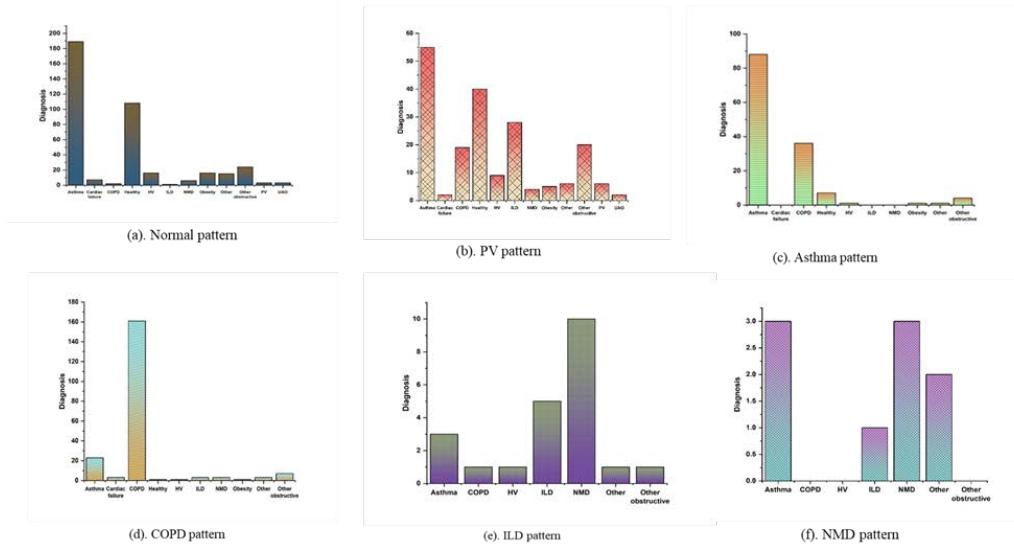


Fig. 3. The distribution of each respiratory illness into the various diagnostic classifications as determined by the ATS/ERS methodology

The decision tree suggests the final diagnosis

The most prevalent lung problems and gathered the healthy people since the prevalence of diseases has a significant impact on the computer generation of new decision trees. PV was absent in just 9 instances (less than 1%); hence it was left out of the study. The adjusted ATS/ERS tree produced a comparable accuracy of 46% for the right diagnosis when applied to the established most prevalent disorders. As NMD's incidence in the BPFs stayed too small to reliably differentiate among the overall population, we next created a system-based approach to establish upfront a 100% unique lung function pattern for NMD. Among the 26 NMD participants, 14 were predetermined to have a distinctive lung function pattern. Subsequently, a machine learning system was used to create a determination algorithm using all of the lung function information as well as an array of clinical factors from the remaining population. After 10-fold cross-validation, this tree's accuracy dropped from 74% on training data to 68%. The decision tree began with a distributing capability cut-off of 70% expected as the initial classifier, proceeded by an FEV1/FVC ratio cut-off of about 70% anticipated. This is the most intriguing aspect of the decision tree. PEF, age, and TLC they all discovered to have a considerable discriminatory potential on the bottom levels of the tree [24]. The confusion matrix for the decision method coupled the initial diagnosis of NMD with the tree for the most prevalent disease in all 801 people. It shows that the new algorithm may identify COPD with an elevated positive predictive value and sensitivity. The suggested approach was much more accurate in predicting the presence of ILD and asthma. A TPR and PPV of 54% and 100% were achieved for the NMD pattern. The decision criteria crossed the 90% specificity for every ailment; therefore, it is clear that they were detailed enough. The least desirable outcomes came from defining a distinct healthy pattern since it is often mistaken for non-obstructed asthma.

DISCUSSION

In this work, we created a machine program to automatically evaluate PFTs using data-driven analysis. Only 38% of the people under study could get a valid diagnosis when using the established program's worldwide recommendations. The correct identification of restrictive illnesses like ILD and NMD, in addition to the correct

differentiation of asthma coming from COPD and healthy persons, were also shown to have significant mistakes. The accuracy increased dramatically to 68% when an impartial decision tree was created using methods for data mining that contained not solely lung function measures but also clinical patient features.

Clinical practice automation is progressing quickly. In addition to computerized ECG perception, the things comparable automation in mammography abnormality detection, multiple sclerosis lesions on CT images, and laboratory test interpretations. The precise diagnostic standards to categorize lung illnesses based on distinct pulmonary function techniques, and machine translation of PFTs has not yet reached practical actuality. Our outcomes provide a clear demonstration of the shortcomings of existing interpretation methodologies, which is criticized by several experts in previous decades. These flaws may have been caused, in part, by the authors' preference for simplicity over sound reasoning when selecting thresholds and parameters. A DLCO below the LLN, for instance, is employed in the ATS/ERS decision tree to distinguish between ILD and NMD [25]. Both disorders have decreased alveolar ventilation, which outcomes in reduced gas transfer, however unlike ILD and interstitial inflammation, the decrease in VA will be the primary factor in lower DLCO in NMD. KCO is a more accurate diagnostic for the additional separation of ILD from NMD since it normalizes the dispersing strength for VA in cases of chest wall diseases or NMD. The NMD patients had low KCO while this information was analysed utilizing the LLN of KCO as a criterion, while the 63% of the ILD cases exhibited. A threshold of 85% of anticipated levels distinguished 88% of all NMD and ILD, according to additional investigation, making KCO the greatest differentiator between NMD and ILD. The characterization of typical healthy lung function patterns in the ATS/ERS decision tree, which is exclusively based on an FEV1/FVC ratio, a VC, and a DLCO above the LLN, is an additional region of concern. Even while changes in these crucial indicators are numerically within normal bounds, many lung disorders may nevertheless manifest with significant disruptions of other measures that together may demonstrate illness.

The creation of a new, impartial decision tree serves as an example of how thorough data-based modelling increases choice-making accuracy. Fascinatingly, the machine incorporates clinical factors

into the decision-making process, much as doctors might when viewing and analysing lung function data. As an illustration, the many routes provided by the computer all follow paths that appear clinically logical and have system-based cut-offs and thresholds that vary between the lower and higher commonly used restrictions. Due to its data-driven nature, our decision tree implies clinical logic while also considering statistical probabilities for various outcomes. For instance, a diagnosis of obstructive asthma rather than COPD will result from a normal DLCO. Although the likelihood of COPD with normal DLCO is minimal, it is acknowledged as an error since it does not imply that it does not exist. The decision tree created by the system is getting closer to the expert panel's accuracy, which was 80% for healthy, asthmatic, ILD, NMD, and COPD patients depending on the fusion of 4 tests and medical heritage. The explanation of lung function is being improved by the present algorithms, however, there are still a lot of errors when separating asthma from COPD and healthy [26]. The reality that asthma can appear as both a fully functional, healthy lung on the one hand and an unchangeable blockage that resembles COPD on the other is unquestionably a contributing factor to this issue. We believe that future improvements to automatic translation techniques should concentrate on lung functions with an initial abnormal pattern. Although it is not yet apparent how this disruption should be characterized, it is evident that we should adopt a more lenient approach than what the ATS/ERS guidelines now recommend. Include additional, more specialized PFT measures to help differentiate between these disorders, which might be a difficult strategy. An additional problem with automatically interpreting lung function is that it is inherently dependent on the prevalence of the illnesses included in the dataset. For example, the PPV was just 42% when building a tree without a priori NMD marginalization, and only 50% of these patients were properly identified, despite the bulk of these unusual cases having a highly distinct illness pattern. By choosing a pattern in advance that there is no uncertainty about, we were able to over-

come the issue and discover that our combined strategy increased accuracy from 64% to 68%. The majority of decision-making tools currently utilize black-box techniques, support vector machine machines, neural networks, and things that are difficult or impossible to understand. This is an alternate method for diagnostic labelling. These methods will undoubtedly improve the accuracy of the diagnosis. An experimental analysis of neural networks in this data set boosted general accuracy by 82% after 10-fold cross-validation. However, since they are dataset-specific, they won't be useful until they have much bigger datasets. Additionally, if there is no logical explanation, professionals will be reluctant to accept them. The requirement for acceptable test quality is also intrinsic to any automated interpretation of PFTs. Multiple investigations demonstrate that the probability of incorrect interpretation and misdiagnosis is increased by inadequately conducted examinations. By receiving enough coaching from pulmonary function laboratory staff, both between-test repeatability and within-test acceptance should be attained. As a result, various rules help ensure the best control of quality.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it is inaccurate to forecast particular respiratory disorders using basic judgment algorithms to identify anomalous trends in sickness. According to our information, the essential decision variables and their thresholds may be selected by computers to enhance the present algorithms. This method may lead to PFT interpreting machine learning decision support systems. Most lung malignancies are discovered late, limiting treatment choices. Early lung cancer identification with more sensitive and specific PFTs may enhance survival chances. Long-term PFT monitoring may reveal pulmonary function consequences of lung cancer therapies and influence survivorship care. Lung cancer PFT research could improve diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes.

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