Objectives:

1. Review respiratory anatomy.
2. Understand mechanics of breathing, gas pressure vocabulary, and the principles of surface tension, compliance, and recoil.
3. Respiratory disorders and spirometry
4. How gas exchange occurs between the alveoli & pulmonary vessels, and between capillaries & tissue.
5. Regulation of breathing (voluntary vs involuntary)
6. Hemoglobin & hemoglobin disorders

1. Respiratory Anatomy - REVIEW

2 Zones of Respiratory System:
1) Conduction zone, 2) Respiratory zone

1) Conduction Zone = from oral/nasal cavities to,

- Pharynx
- Larynx
- Trachea
- 1° Bronchi
- 2° Bronchi
- 3° Bronchi
- Terminal bronchioles
**Functions of Conducting Zone**

- Transports air to the lungs.
- Warms, humidifies, filters, and cleans the air.
  - *Mucus* traps small particles, and *cilia* move it away from the lungs. *Expectoration* = coughing up the mucus & debris.
- Voice production in the *larynx* as air passes over the *vocal folds*.

**Structures in the larynx**

- **glottis** – opening between vocal cords
  - opening to trachea

- **epiglottis** – closes upon swallowing to prevent food from entering airway

- **false vocal cords** – muscles fibers that assist the epiglottis

- **true vocal cords** – muscles folds that vibrate when air passes by them
2) **Respiratory zone**

**Respiratory bronchioles** = smallest bronchioles, branch from tertiary bronchioles.

**Alveolar sacs** = honey-comb shaped, 1-cell thick sacs for gas exchange.

[~300 mill in lungs! ~760 sq ft area!]

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**Diagrammatic view of capillary-alveoli relationships**

**QUESTIONS**

- Is this a pulmonary artery or vein?

**How gases are exchanged w/blood**

Surrounded by arterial & venous capillaries ("capillary plexus") for gas exchange between alveoli & blood.
Gas exchange occurs at the Alveoli
- thin cellular walls covered with capillary networks
- 300 million sacs! - very large surface area
- surfactant keeps the alveoli inflated

Gas exchange like simple diffusion. Goes with pressure gradient from high to low pressure.

2 Types Alveolar Cells:

**Type 1 Alveolar Cells** = Make up wall of alveolus. 97% of total lung surface area where most gas exchange occurs.

**Type 2 Alveolar Cells** - secrete surfactant

Surfactant = Substance that
↓ surface tension from
water lining alveolar sac.
Prevent alveoli from
collapsing & sticking
during exhalation.
**Why is surfactant important?**

Non-obstructive Atelectasis =
- Not enough surfact.
- ↑ Alveolar surface tension
- Lead to alveolar collapse
-Collapsed lung.

Not to be confused with

Obstructive Atelectasis =
- Foreign body in airway leading to alveolar collapse & collapsed lung.

**Surfactants ↓ intra-alveolar pressure & prevent collapse**

*Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome (IRDS)*

- Surfactant is produced > 28 weeks (7-8 months)
- Babies are born < 28 wks - not enough surfactant. High surface tension inside alveoli, results in collapsed alveoli, which collapses lung (*non-obstructive atelectasis*)
- Tx = synthetic surfactant delivered into baby’s lungs & mechanical ventilator until Type 2 alveolar cells can make surfactant.

*Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)*

- Due to inflammation from infection (septic shock)
- Results in protein (serum) secretion in lungs.
- Fluid dilutes surfactant, ↑ surface tension, alveoli collapse,
- could cause lung collapse (*non-obstructive atelectasis*)
Membranes of the lungs:

- **Visceral pleura**: membrane covering lungs.
- **Parietal pleura**: membrane lining pleural cavity.
  - Parietal pleura held tight against thoracic wall by surface tension of water layer.
  - As thoracic cage changes volume (w/breathing) so do the lungs.

**Intrapleural space**: potential space between pleura.
- The 2 pleura pressed together w/serous fluid between them.

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### 2. Mechanics of Respiration

1) **Air moves from high to low pressure**
   - Atmospheric air pressure = constant (760 mmHg)
   - Lung air pressure depends on volume of thoracic cavity

2) **Air pressure in lungs (closed chamber) changes with volume of chamber**
   - "Boyle’s Law" = as volume of closed chamber ↑, air pressure within ↑
   - as volume of closed chamber ↓, air pressure within ↓

Translates to lung volume & air pressure within lungs ("intrapulmonary pressure"):
- **When diaphragm contracts**
  - As thoracic volume ↑, lung volume ↑, & intrapulmonary pressure ↑
- **When diaphragm relaxes**
  - As thoracic volume ↓, lung volume ↓, & intrapulmonary pressure ↓
Boyle's Law

Chamber volume larger
BUT air pressure lower

Chamber volume smaller
BUT air pressure higher

Inspiration
Expiration

Table 16.1 | Pressure Changes in Normal, Quiet Breathing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inspiration</th>
<th>Expiration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intrapulmonary pressure (mmHg)</td>
<td>−3</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrapleural pressure (mmHg)</td>
<td>−6</td>
<td>−3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transpulmonary pressure (mmHg)</td>
<td>+3</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Pressures indicate mmHg below or above atmospheric pressure.
Mechanism of Breathing

Inspiration/inhalation = When the diaphragm and intercostal muscles contract, the thoracic cage volume ↑, & the lung volume ↑.

Rate of breathing is controlled by the medulla oblongata, which sends signals to the diaphragm and intercostal muscles.

Expiration/exhalation = When the diaphragm and intercostal muscles relax, the thoracic cage volume, ↓, & the lung volume ↓.
Muscles involved in **inspiration**

- **Diaphragm** – contracts (moves downward) to expand thorax.
- **external intercostal muscles** – contraction lifts ribs & sternum
- **scalenes, pectoralis minor, & sternocleidomastoid** – contract to pull thoracic cage up and outward.

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Muscles involved in **expiration**

- **Diaphragm** – relaxes (diaphragm moves upward) to compress thorax.
- **internal intercostal muscles** – contraction pulls ribs and sternum in
- **abdominal wall muscles** – contract to push diaphragm higher
Gas Pressure Vocabulary:

- **Intraluminal pressure** = pressure inside lungs
  - *During inhalation* – is lower than atmospheric pressure (-3 mmHg)
  - *During exhalation* – is above atmospheric pressure (+3 mmHg)

- **Intrapleural pressure** = pressure between the pleural membranes due to elastic recoil (parietal pleura sticks to wall)
  - *During inhalation* – is lower than atmospheric (-6 mmHg)
  - *During exhalation* – is still lower atmospheric (-3 mmHg)

  *** intrapleural pressure should ALWAYS be negative. If air enters this space, the lung can detach from thoracic wall, trapped air puts pressure on lung, & lung can collapse. ***

- **Transpulmonary pressure** = difference between intraluminal & intrapleural pressure (is ALWAYS above atmospheric pressure).

Causes of a collapsed lung”

“Pneumothorax” = air trapped within intrapleural space, which can collapse lung.

(Can be traumatic or tension)

- Air trapped between the two pleural membranes removes the pressure gradient.

**Result** = can’t expand lungs to get air to enter! Lung collapses.
**Important properties of the lungs:**

**A) Surface tension** = pressure resulting from thin film of water lining alveoli that resists their expansion. Makes alveoli want to collapse with exhalation.

**B) Compliance** = lungs expand when stretched (when thoracic volume ↑).
- more lung compliance = greater capacity for “stretchiness”
- less lung compliance = less capacity for “stretchiness”

**C) Elasticity/Recoil** = tendency of lungs to return to normal shape after stretching.
(When thoracic volume ↓, lungs volume also ↓ parietal pleura keeps lungs “stuck” to thoracic wall).
A) Surface Tension & Law of Laplace

Law of Laplace & surface tension in alveoli:

Small alveoli have ↑ surface tension within, & ↑ air pressure within (intra-alveolar pressure)

Large alveoli have ↓ surface tension, & ↓ air pressure within

**anything that functionally ↓ alveolar size:
↑ surface tension & intra-alveolar pressure
↓ gas exchange &
↓ respiratory capacity

**anything that functionally ↓ alveolar size: like fluid buildup
   ↑ surface tension & intra-alveolar pressure
   ↓ gas exchange &
   ↓ respiratory capacity

Smoking & Emphysema

Healthy lungs

Smoking

Emphysema

Large air cavity lined with carbon deposits formed
Inflammatory response triggered
Inflammatory chemicals dissolve alveolar septum

Healthy alveoli

Harmful particles trapped in alveoli
B) Lung compliance

Factors that increase compliance:
- pulmonary “surfactants”

Factors that decrease compliance:
- many, many things!
- Anything that causes chronic inflammation can lead to ↓ compliance
  - Chronic inflammation of the airways (bronchitis) can lead to
  - scar tissue in lungs (pulmonary fibrosis),
  - and narrowing of airways (bronchoconstriction)

For Ex. - Lung damage from smoking causes chronic bronchitis and formation of scar tissue (fibrosis)
Review

• The respiratory system
  – The conduction & respiration zones
• Airway, lung, and thoracic cavity anatomy
• Alveoli (gas exchange, surfactant, factors that affect intra-alveolar surface tension and pressure)
• Mechanics of breathing (Boyle’s law and respiratory muscles), muscles of respiration.
• Gas pressure vocabulary, and pneumothorax,
• Important properties of the lungs
  – Surface tension, compliance, & elasticity.
  – Factors that affect these properties

3. Respiratory Disorders, & Diagnosing Them

**Respiratory Disorders**

A **Restrictive Disorder** = Lung tissue is damaged. Lungs are stiff, or respiratory muscles are weak.

Examples: **Pulmonary fibrosis**

**Obstructive Disorder** = Lung tissue is normal, but resistance is increased (airways are narrowed)

Examples: **Asthma**

  **COPD** (which includes emphysema & chronic bronchitis)

  **Cystic fibrosis**
**Respiratory Disorders – Pulmonary Fibrosis**

- **Pulmonary fibrosis** = buildup of fibrous tissue in lungs stiffens them (restrictive disorder)

**MANY CAUSES**

> Breathing in small particles that accumulate in & irritate the lungs:
  
  Ex: **Silicosis** = (inhalation of fine glass, rock, or sand particles)

  Ex: **Anthracosis** (black lung disease) = inhalation of coal dust

  Ex. **Mesothelioma** – breathing in asbestos.

- Breathing in chemicals that irritate the lungs:
  
  Ex. **smoking**

**Respiratory Illnesses - Asthma**

Muscles around the bronchioles are hyper-excitabile to allergen breathed in. Histamine reaction

- **Obstructive disorder** due to inflammation, mucous secretion, & narrowing of airways (bronchoconstriction).

Treatment? **Albuterol (B2-agonist)**

[Images of normal bronchiole and asthmatic bronchiole]
Respiratory Illnesses – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Chronic inflammation of airways alveolar tissue
- narrows airways & destroys alveolar walls
- proliferation of mucus-secreting goblet cells
- development of scar (fibrous) tissue = pulmonary fibrosis
- Obstructive disorder – due to mucus buildup and narrowed airways.
**Respiratory Illnesses - Emphysema**

Chronic destruction of alveolar tissue (walls between alveoli lost)
- reduces area for gas exchange
- alveoli expand easily, but can’t empty easily (air-trapping disorder)
- **obstructive disorder**

[Image](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/images/ency/fullsize/17055.jpg)

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**Respiratory Illnesses - Cystic Fibrosis**

- Genetic disorder affecting Cl- channels on alveoli membrane. **Obstructive disorder**

Results in buildup of mucus within alveoli causing:
- Dilutes surfactant
- ↓ decreased functional alveolar size
- ↑ surface tension & intra-alveolar pressure (harder for alveoli to expand)
- ↓ with gas exchange
- Warmth & moisture (mucus) aids bacterial growth. (Vulnerable to **pneumonia**)

[Image]
Pulmonary Function Tests

- Spirometry: air movement during respiration recorded on a spirogram.
  - Measures lung volumes and capacities
  - Can diagnose restrictive and obstructive lung disorders

3. Lung Volumes & Respiratory Vocabulary

**Spirometry** = clinical evaluation of pulmonary (respiratory) function, which allows diagnosis of lung disorders.
Additional Respiratory Vocabulary:

**Apnea** = absence of breathing

**Dyspnea** = labored or difficult breathing

**Eupnea** = normal breathing at rest

**Hyperventilation** = excessively rapid ventilation (will decrease alveolar CO2)

**Hypoventilation** = low ventilation (will increase alveolar CO2)

**Pneumothorax** = presence of gas in intrapleural space causing lung collapse
Review

• Respiratory disorders
  – Restrictive vs Obstructive
  – Pulmonary fibrosis (and its causes)
  – Asthma
  – COPD
  – Emphysema
  – Cystic fibrosis

• Testing for respiratory disorders
  – Spirometry
  – Spirometry vocabulary (IRV, ERV, TV, VC, RV, and TLC, minute ventilation)
  – Additional respiratory vocabulary (eupnea, dyspnea, apnea, hyperventilation, hypoventilation)

4. Basics of Gas Exchange at Lungs and at Body Tissues

Gas exchange between 2 structures is dependent on pressure gradient of dissolved O2 & CO2

* Gas moves from side with higher pressure (from dissolved gases) to side with lower pressure & visa versa

*Gas wants to move “downhill” from high to low pressure!
Gas exchange between lung alveoli & pulmonary vessels:

> Alveolar PO2 = 105 mmHg, higher than that in pulmonary arteries (40 mmHg)

> Alveolar PCO2 = 40 mmHg, lower than that in pulmonary arteries (46 mmHg)

Gas exchange between systemic capillaries & tissues:

> Tissue PO2 (<100 mmHg) = lower than O2-rich arterial blood (100 mmHg)

> Tissue PCO2 (>40 mmHg) = higher than that in arterial blood (40 mmHg)
Review

- Pulmonary function tests (spirometry)
- Alveolar PO\textsubscript{2} lower than atmospheric
- Gas exchange at tissues & at alveoli of lungs
  Depends on differences in partial pressures of O\textsubscript{2} and CO\textsubscript{2}

5. Regulation of Respiration – regulation of blood O\textsubscript{2} & CO\textsubscript{2}

Motor neurons from 3 brain areas control breathing muscles:

1) **Voluntary Breathing**
   = primary motor cortex of frontal cerebral lobe.

2) **Involuntary Breathing** =
   - **Medulla** respiratory center regulates respiratory rate.
   - **Pons** – apneustic center (stimulate inhalation)
     – pneumotaxic center (inhibit inhalation)
What happens to minute ventilation after:

- **Hypoventilation?**
  - Holding breath
  - $\uparrow$ CO$_2$ in blood
  - $\downarrow$ blood pH (respiratory acidosis)
  - Medulla will fix
  - $\uparrow$ minute ventilation (resp. rate & depth)
  - Lose excess CO$_2$
  - Blood pH $\uparrow$

- **Hyperventilation?**
  - Rapid breathing
  - Loss of too much CO$_2$
  - $\uparrow$ blood pH (respiratory alkalosis)
  - $\downarrow$ minute ventilation
  - Conserve some CO$_2$
  - $\downarrow$ blood pH

Autonomic motor control breathing involves:

**Chemoreceptors:**

- Aorta & carotid artery chemoreceptors (called peripheral chemoreceptors)
  - Sense blood O$_2$ and CO$_2$ levels

- Medulla chemoreceptors (called central chemoreceptors)
  - Sense CSF O$_2$ and CO$_2$ levels
Negative Feedback regulation of blood pH (by blood CO2 content)

**Stimulus** = ↓ blood pH (acidosis) blood O2 is too low (CO2 is high)
**Sensors** = arterial chemoreceptors detect high CO2 in blood, Medulla senses high CO2 in CSF.
**Integrating center** = Medulla’s respiratory center
**Effectors** = respiratory muscles
   ↑ respiratory depth & rate (↑ minute ventilation) Get rid of excess CO2
**Effect** = ↑ blood pH to normal

**Stimulus** = ↑ blood pH (alkalosis) blood O2 is too high (CO2 is too low)
**Sensors** = arterial chemoreceptors detect low CO2 in blood, Medulla senses low CO2 in CSF.
**Integrating center** = Medulla’s respiratory center
**Effectors** = respiratory muscles
   ↓ respiratory depth & rate (↓ minute ventilation) Retain a little CO2
**Effect** = ↓ blood pH to normal

The role of chemoreceptors in respiration

The most important chemical in influencing breathing rate is **carbon dioxide**.

\[ \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3 \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{HCO}_3^- \]

Oxygen-sensitive chemoreceptors **only** alter breathing rate when blood oxygen levels fall critically low (or CO2 is too high)
Blood pH (Acid/Base balance) based primarily on blood CO₂ content and metabolic activities in body:

1) Respiratory component = where CO₂ (a volatile acid) in blood eliminated by lungs (exhalation).
   - Increased respiratory rate ↑ blood pH (respiratory alkalosis)
   - Decreased respiratory rate ↓ blood pH (respiratory acidosis)

2) Metabolic component = non-volatile acids in blood (i.e. lactic acid, fatty acids, ketones) eliminated by liver, kidneys, or other organs.

Acidosis = increased acids in blood (pH below 7.35)
Alkalosis = decreased acids in blood (pH above 7.45)

Respiratory acidosis = ↓ blood pH due to ↓ respiratory rate (hypoventilation) – not enough CO₂ waste exhaled by lungs.

Respiratory alkalosis = ↑ blood pH due to ↑ respiratory rate (hyperventilation) – too much CO₂ exhaled by lungs.

Metabolic acidosis = excess metabolic production of acids (i.e. ketosis) OR loss of bases (i.e. bicarbonate) from chronic diarrhea or kidney problems (excrete too much HCO₃⁻)

Metabolic alkalosis = too much bicarbonate (not enough excreted by kidneys) OR loss of metabolic acids such as with chronic vomiting (lose HCL).
**Review**

- Regulation of breathing (voluntary vs involuntary)
  - Primary motor cortex (voluntary)
  - Medulla & Pons (involuntary)

- Acid / Base imbalance
  - Metabolic Acidosis & Alkalosis versus
  - Respiratory Acidosis & alkalosis

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**Review**

- Regulation of breathing
  - Medulla & pons
- Chemoreceptors
  - central, peripheral
- Hemoglobin O₂ transport:
  - Oxyhemoglobin & deoxyhemoglobin
  - Abnormal hemoglobin (carboxyhemoglobin, methemoglobin)
  - Neonatal jaundice
  - Sickle cell