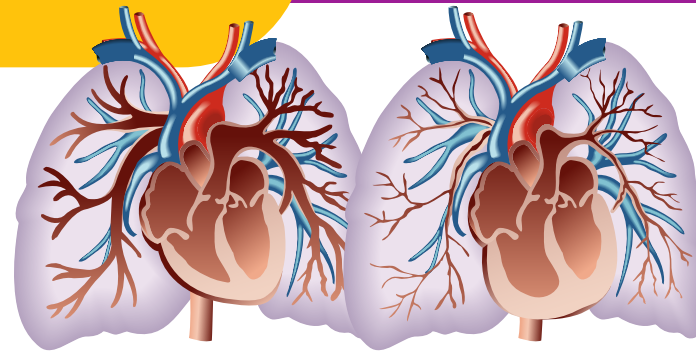


Testing for Pulmonary Hypertension

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) may be considered by your medical provider if you are short of breath, your ability to exercise has decreased or you are having dizziness, lightheadedness, fatigue or swelling in your legs or abdomen

Many different tests that may suggest the possibility of PH but cannot conclusively make the diagnosis. If PH is suspected based on your symptoms and physical exam, you should have further testing performed.



Normal Heart

Pulmonary Hypertension

1. Electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG):

This checks the electrical impulses of the heart through electrodes which are attached to the skin.

2. Chest X-ray and CT Scan of the lungs:

Signs of PH such as an enlarged heart or pulmonary arteries may be seen on chest x-ray. A CT scan provides a high-res picture of the lungs to help identify underlying lung disease

3. Pulmonary Function Testing:

This test measures the volume of air movement in and out of the lungs and how efficiently oxygen is transferred into the blood vessels.

4. Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing (CPET):

This is a specialized exercise test performed and interpreted only at certain centers to determine the cause of exercise intolerance.

5. Echocardiogram:

This is a detailed ultrasound of the heart, which provides a picture of the general size and pumping function of the heart.

6. Sleep Study or Nocturnal Oximetry:

This is used to assess how well you are sleeping, and if your oxygen levels drop at night.

7. Nuclear Ventilation/Perfusion Scan (V/Q Scan):

This is a specialized chest image where a small dose of radioactive material is breathed in while another dose is injected into the blood, in order to identify the presence of new or old blood clots in the lungs.

8. Cardiac MRI:

This test can provide pictures of the heart that can be used to look for abnormal structures that can lead to PH.

9. Right Heart Catheterization:

The only test that will confirm if you have PH is a right heart catheterization, which directly measures the pressure in your lungs. This procedure sometimes requires sedation and it most often is performed as an outpatient procedure.

10. Bloodwork:

Your physician will check a variety of blood tests to look for potential causes of PH.

11. Genetic Testing:

If no underlying cause is detected on your evaluation or there is concern for a family history of PH, genetic testing may be part of your diagnostic workup.