PREOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR PULMONARY RESECTION

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Despite the unmistakable advance that has taken place in the techniques of thoracic surgery and anesthesia, pulmonary resection remains to be a risky procedure. Preoperative workout is crucial in deciding whether the patient can withstand the procedure, predicting the incidence of complications and therefore planning the best strategy suitable for the patient's condition.

The assessment includes proper history taking, physical examination, laboratory and radiological investigations. Pulmonary function tests are very important diagnostic and prognostic tools. The respiratory functions can be categorized into three interrelated groups:

- Respiratory mechanics
- Lung parenchymal function
- Cardiopulmonary reserve

In some situations more complex procedures such as ventilation/perfusion lung scanning and flow-volume loops, are required.

The coexisting diseases need to be properly assessed especially cardiac and renal diseases as well as COPD and lung cancer.

Last but not least the plan for post-thoracotomy analgesia should be addressed during the preoperative assessment.