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Educational questions.

"Impaired lung compliance and $D_{L,CO}$ but no restrictive ventilatory defect in sarcoidosis"

For each statement, mark appropriately in every box with a (+) for true or (–) for false.

1. Which of the following statements about lung function in sarcoidosis is correct?
❑ Volume restriction is the rule and airway function is well-preserved as in other interstitial lung diseases. ❑ Airway obstruction is more common in sarcoidosis than in other interstitial lung diseases. ❑ Lung function is almost always impaired in sarcoidosis stage 2 and above. ❑ Measurement of FEV_1 is mandatory to classify the disease stage.

2. Which of the following statements about about static lung compliance is correct?
❑ Static lung compliance is routinely measured during body plethysmography. ❑ Low compliance reflects increased lung stiffness and increased work of breathing. ❑ Low static compliance may be due to respiratory muscle weakness. ❑ Assessing lung compliance requires direct measurement of pleural pressure.

3. What is the ATS/ERS definition of restriction?
❑ Vital capacity below 80% predicted. Vital capacity below 80% predicted and FEV_1/FVC greater than 0.70. ❑ Total lung capacity below the 5th percentile of a reference population. ❑ Post-bronchodilator vital capacity and $D_{L,CO}$ below 80% predicted

4. Regarding $D_{L,CO}$ in patients with sarcoidosis, which statement is correct?
❑ $D_{L,CO}$ is reduced only when volume restriction occurs. ❑ A normal $D_{L,CO}$ rules out parenchymal involvement. ❑ $D_{L,CO}$ provides no clinically important information if $S_{p,O2}$ has been measured. ❑ The predicted value of $D_{L,CO}$ varies with the hemoglobin concentration.

5. Which of the following statements about lung function in sarcoidosis is correct?
❑ Sarcoidosis leads to restriction (low TLC) in the majority of patients. ❑ Lung function abnormality is highly unlikely in Stage I sarcoidosis. ❑ A low $D_{L,CO}$ or lung compliance may be present with normal lung volumes. ❑ Volume restriction is necessary to categorize a patient in stage III.

6. Which of the following statements about lung function interpretation is correct?
❑ The normal limits for $D_{L,CO}$ are 80–120% of predicted. ❑ The lower limit of normal for FEV_1/FVC is 0.70 for adults over age 40. ❑ A test result below the 5th percentile of a reference population is regarded as abnormal, however the subject may be healthy. ❑ A vital capacity at the 5th percentile of reference population makes lung disease highly probable.