



Gwinnett Pulmonary Group

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Gwinnett Pulmonary Group is a high-volume private practice in one of the most populated counties in Georgia. The practice was founded in 1983. Currently, the practice has 18 providers, 5 locations and sees hundreds of patients per day. Pulmonary function testing is the most important diagnostic test that can be done in the office to identify many different lung diseases. Many times, testing is done on the same day the patient sees the doctor and the patient will receive their results immediately.

Over the 40 years, Gwinnett Pulmonary Group has had several different pulmonary function testing machines including body box and nitrogen washout machines. In 2019, Gwinnett Pulmonary Group introduced the MiniBox+ to the practice. Since then, the practice has seen a positive impact in the pulmonary function testing department.

When Gwinnett Pulmonary was looking to expand the practice and open part-time satellite locations, the need for a portable pulmonary function machine was discussed. There were options for portable spirometers, but the best tool for diagnostics was to have a machine that could perform spirometry, lung volumes, and lung diffusion capacity. The MiniBox+ is portable and can perform all these tests. While other machines are stationary, the MiniBox+ is placed onto a cart that can be rolled into the exam room where the patient sees the doctor.

Body box machines can be intimidating to patients and are not a viable option for patients who are claustrophobic or may be larger in size, as the patient must sit inside the machine with the door closed. In the 5 years of using the MiniBox+, Gwinnett Pulmonary has not had a patient that could not or refused to test due to the size, shape or mechanics of the machine. In fact, patients that went years without having a proper pulmonary function test can now test on the MiniBox+.

Testing on the MiniBox+ has proven to be much easier for the technician to coach the patient through the test and for the patient to perform the testing accurately. Because of this, testing takes much less time than using other types of machines. With the MiniBox+ we can see about 50% more patients in an 8-hour day than with the body box and nitrogen washout machines.

The physicians at Gwinnett Pulmonary Group find the results from MiniBox+ as reliable, if not more reliable than the body box. Our practice initially purchased 2 machines and then purchased 2 more a couple of years later.

In conclusion, at Gwinnett Pulmonary Group, the MiniBox+ has been a positive asset to the practice. It has proven to increase patient volume, create a smoother workflow and produce dependable results to better diagnose patients.

*Lynn Scott, CRT, RCP*

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