

HISTORY

HPC

- Duration of symptoms
- Speed of onset: Sudden / Gradual
- Haemoptysis: Volume / Clots
- Infective symptoms: Fever / Rigors / Cough + sputum
- PE symptoms: Chest pain / SOB / Pleuritic pain
- Anemia symptoms: Chest Pain / SOB / Lethargy / Postural Hypotension
- Recent surgery / trauma : Thorax / Oral
- Malignancy symptoms: Weight loss / Malaise
- Vasculitic symptoms: Haematuria / Fever / Rash / Generalised aching / weakness

PMH

- Chronic lung disease / Lung malignancy
- Cardiac: IHD / MI / Heart failure
- Liver disease
- Coagulation disorders
- Vasculitic disease
- PE risk factors: Cancer / Previous DVT / PE

DH

- Anti-platelets
- Anticoagulation
- NSAIDS / Steroids

EXAMINATION

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Increased work of breathing
- Distressed / Pain
- Patient cyanosed / pallor

AIRWAY

- Ensure airway patent

BREATHING

- Physical Observation: FiO₂ / RR / SaO₂
- Auscultation: Wheeze / Crackles / Air entry
- Sputum: Haemoptysis

CIRCULATION

- Physical Observation: HR / BP
- Fluid input-output: Fluid balance
- Heart sounds: Murmurs
- Calves: SNT / Erythema / Painful
- CRT: Central / Peripheral
- Mucus membranes: Moist / Dry

DISABILITY

- Physical Observation: Temp
- GCS

EXPOSURE

- Rash: Petechiae (fat embolism) / Vasculitic

INVESTIGATIONS

BLOODS

- FBC / U&E / CRP
- LFT
- Clotting / Group and Save
- D-Dimer: WELLS score < 5

ABG / VBG

- ABG if low SaO₂ / concern pO₂
- pH
 - pO₂ / pCO₂
 - HCO₃-
 - Lactate

- Hb
- Electrolytes
- Glucose

ECG

- Rate
- Rhythm: Arrhythmia
- Ischaemia: ST segment / T wave inversion / New LBBB
- Right heart strain: Right Axis / S1Q3T3

MICRO

- Blood culture: If Temp > 38
- Sputum culture: If productive cough

VASCULITIC SCREEN

- If suspected discuss with Rheumatology tests required

CXR

- Masses
- Consolidation

CTPA

- +ve D-Dimer
- or-
- WELLS score ≥ 5

DISCUSS WITH SENIOR

POTENTIAL DIFFERENTIALS

PE

PNEUMONIA / CHEST INFECTION

COAGULATION DISORDER / ANTICOAGULATION

LUNG MALIGNANCY

BRONCHIECTASIS CHRONIC BRONCHITIS

VASCULITIS

EXCESSIVE COUGHING

THORAX / ORAL TRAUMA / SURGERY