

HISTORY

HPC

- Duration symptoms
- Speed of onset: Sudden / Gradual
- Fevers
- Sputum: None / Clear / Yellow-Green / Frothy / Haemoptysis
- Chest Pain: Cardiac / Pleuritic / Palpitations
- PE risk factors: Recent surgery / Immobility
- Heart failure symptoms: Oedema, Orthopnoea, PND

PMH

- Asthma: ITU admission / Brittle
- COPD: Recent IECOPD, Needed NIV?
- Lung disease: Interstitial lung disease / Malignancy
- Anaphylaxis
- Cardiac: IHD / MI / Heart failure
- PE risk factors: Cancer / Previous DVT / PE

DH

- Inhalers
- Nebulisers
- LTOT
- GTN
- VTE prophylaxis
- Allergies / New medications

SH / FH

- Smoking status: Non / Current / Ex
- Exercise tolerance: Normal / Low
- VTE / IHD risk factors: 1st degree FH

EXAMINATION

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Increased work of breathing
- Distressed
- Patient cyanosed

AIRWAY

- Ensure airway patent
- Stridor
- Facial / Tongue swelling

BREATHING

- Physical Observation: FiO₂ / RR / SaO₂
- Tracheal position: Central / Deviated
- Auscultation: Wheeze / Crackles / Air entry / Silent Chest
- Percussion: Dull / Hyperresonance
- Chest expansion: Equal / Unequal / See-Saw
- Sputum: Clear / Yellow-Green / Frothy / Haemoptysis

CIRCULATION

- Physical Observation: HR / BP
- Fluid input-output: Fluid balance
- Heart sounds: Murmurs
- JVP: Not visible / <2cm / Raised
- Calves: SNT / Erythema / Painful
- Peripheries: Unilateral swelling / Bilateral swelling / Pitting oedema / Sacral oedema

DISABILITY

- Physical Observation: Temp
- GCS: Consider protection of airway
- PERL: Normal / Constricted / Dilated
- CBG: Normal / Hypoglycaemic / Hyperglycaemic + ketotic

EXPOSURE

- Rash: Urticaria / Petechiae (fat embolism)
- Abdo: SNT / Distended

INVESTIGATIONS

BLOODS

- FBC / U&E / CRP
- Troponin: If Chest pain
- D-Dimer: If suspected DVT/PE and WELLS ≤ 4

ABG

- pH
 - pO₂ / pCO₂
 - HCO₃⁻
 - Lactate
- Hb
 - Electrolytes
 - Glucose

CXR

- Consolidation
- Effusion
- Collapse
- Pneumothorax
- Masses

ECG

- Rate
- Rhythm: Arrhythmia
- Ischaemia: ST segment / T wave inversion / New LBBB
- Right heart strain: Right Axis / S1Q3T3 / TWI V1-3, inf leads

MICRO

- Blood Cultures: If Temp > 38
- Sputum: MC&S / AFB
- Atypical screen: Serum mycoplasma serology / Urinary Legionella & Urinary Pneumococcus antigens

PEFR (asthma)

- Calculate Predicted
- PEFR CALC

CTPA

- +ve D-Dimer
- WELLS score ≥ 5
- PE

DISCUSS WITH SENIOR

POTENTIAL DIFFERENTIALS

ACUTE ASTHMA

EXACERBATION COPD

PNEUMONIA

ACS

PE

HEART FAILURE

PNEUMOTHORAX

ANAPHYLAXIS

LUNG MALIGNANCY

ACUTE ABDOMEN