

CHEST PAIN ASSESSMENT

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When dealing with patients..

- Is it a life threatening illness???

I am having chest pain..!!

- Is it Life threatening?

Patient 1



Patient 2



Patient 3

2008



Toni Braxton admitted with chest pain after her performance in Las Vegas.....

Who is likely to have a serious illness?



Chest Pain

- Common presentation to A&E
- Trivial to life-threatening causes
- Key to diagnosis is HISTORY
- Negative baseline investigations DO NOT rule out serious conditions

Chest Pain

Most important:

- Identify the life-threatening causes

Life-threatening Causes of Chest Pain

- Myocardial infarction
- Unstable angina
- Thoracic aortic dissection
- Pulmonary embolus
- Tension pneumothorax
- Oesophageal rupture

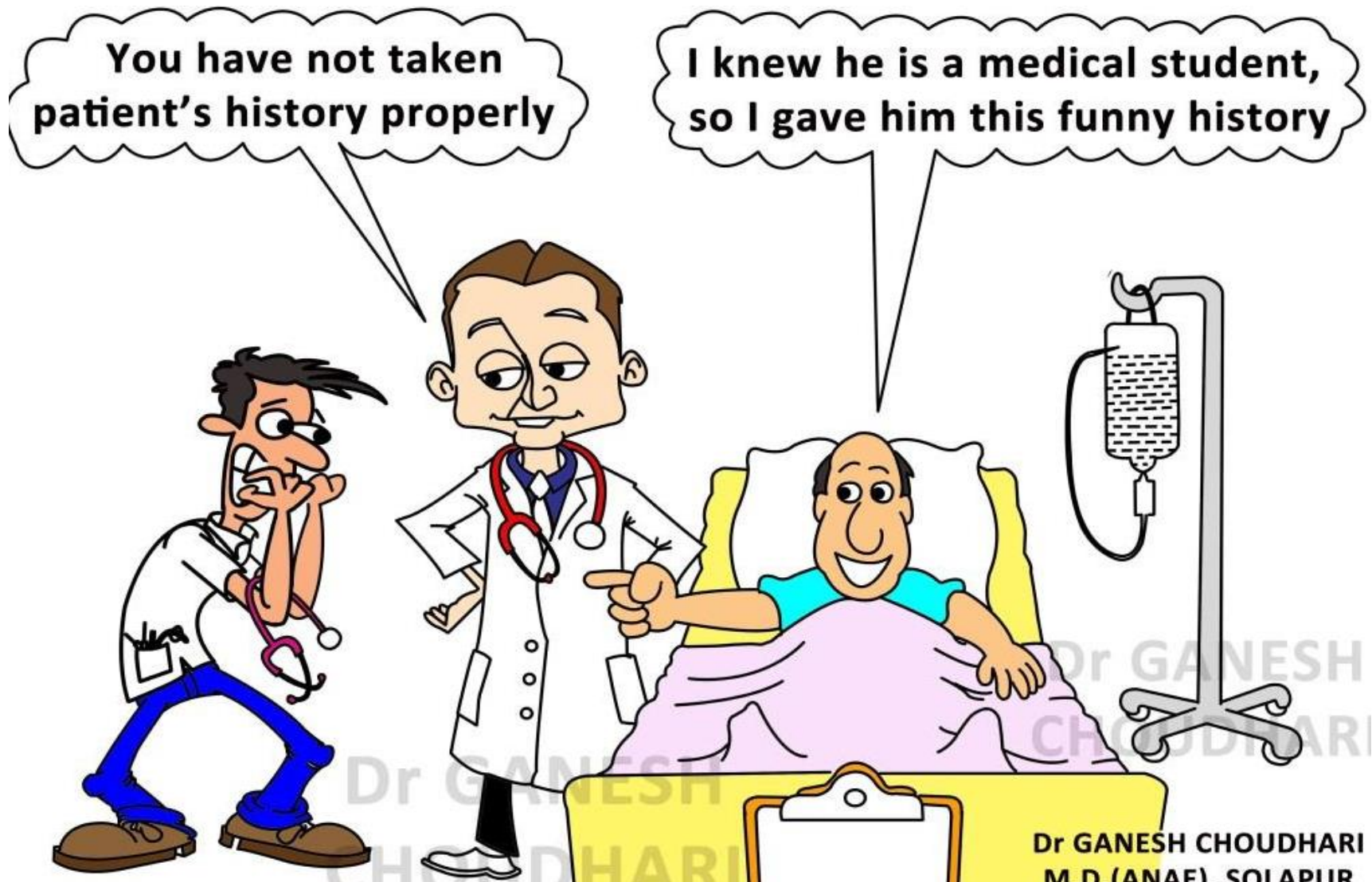
Other Differentials

- Costochondritis
- Herpes Zoster
- Musculoskeletal
- Anxiety
- Cardiac
 - Angina
 - Pericarditis
- Respiratory
 - Pneumothorax
 - Pneumonia
- GI
 - Reflux
 - Oesophageal spasm
 - Cholecystitis
 - pancreatitis

Chest pain assessment

- History
- Examination and
- Investigations

History...?



CHEST PAIN ASSESSMENT

- **History** *Vitally Important*
- **Pain** - Nature / Character
Site
Severity
Duration
Radiation
Onset
Exacerbating /relieving factors
Associated features
Previous similar pains

Chest pain due to cardiac causes

- Nature / Character: Constricting
- Site: Retro-sternal
- Severity: Impending death
- Duration: >20 min / < 20 min
- Radiation: Left arm, neck, jaw
- Onset: Acute
- Exacerbating: Exercise / stress
- Relieving factors: Rest
- Associated features: Sweating, faintness
- Previous similar pains:

Myocardial infarction



A man with a concerned expression is shown from the chest up, shirtless. He is wearing a white chest strap heart rate monitor. The background is black.

**A CHEST PAIN IS YOUR
BODY SAYING CALL 999**

DOUBT KILLS. CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY.



Chest pain due to pulmonary causes: pleuritis

- Nature / Character: sharp,
- Site: site of inflammation
- Severity: respiratory catch
- Duration: with breath
- Radiation: no: localized
- Onset: Acute/ sub acute
- Exacerbating: breathing in
- Relieving factors: breath holding
- Associated features: fever, cough
- Previous similar pains:

Examination...?

- Inspection
- Palpation
- Percussion
- Auscultation

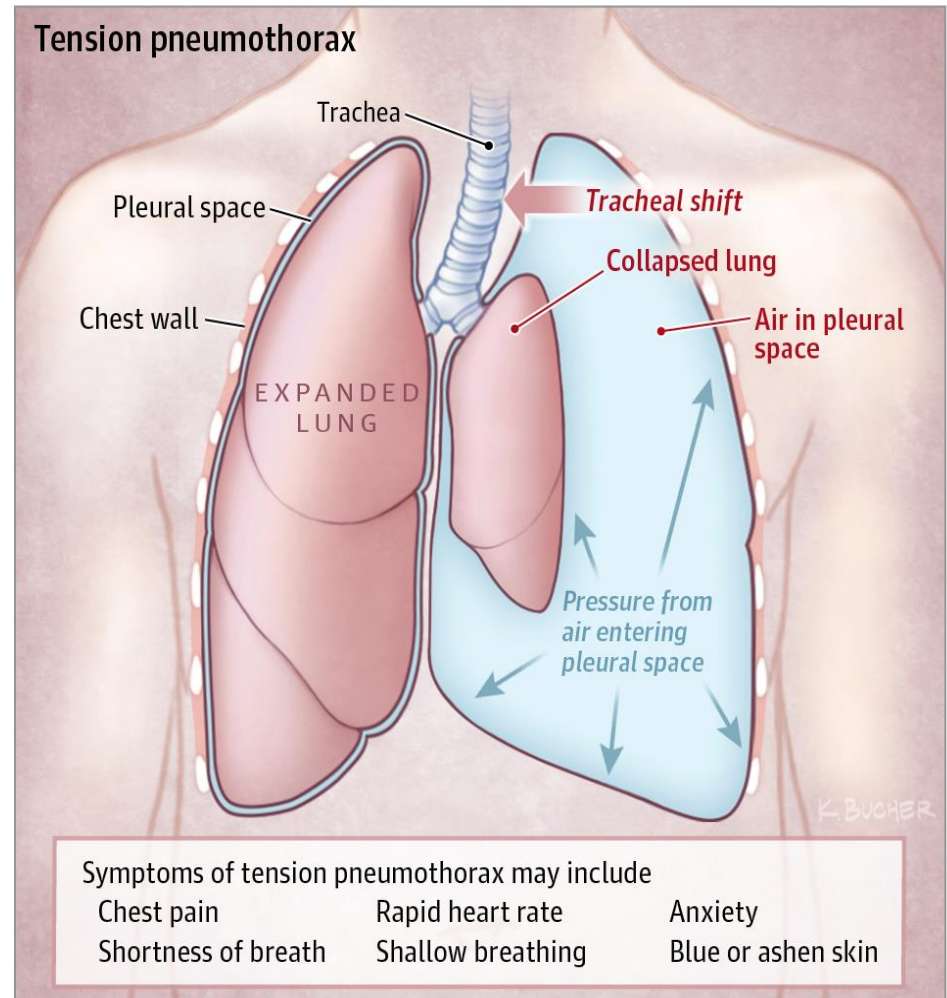
Expose



Palpation



Percussion



Auscultation

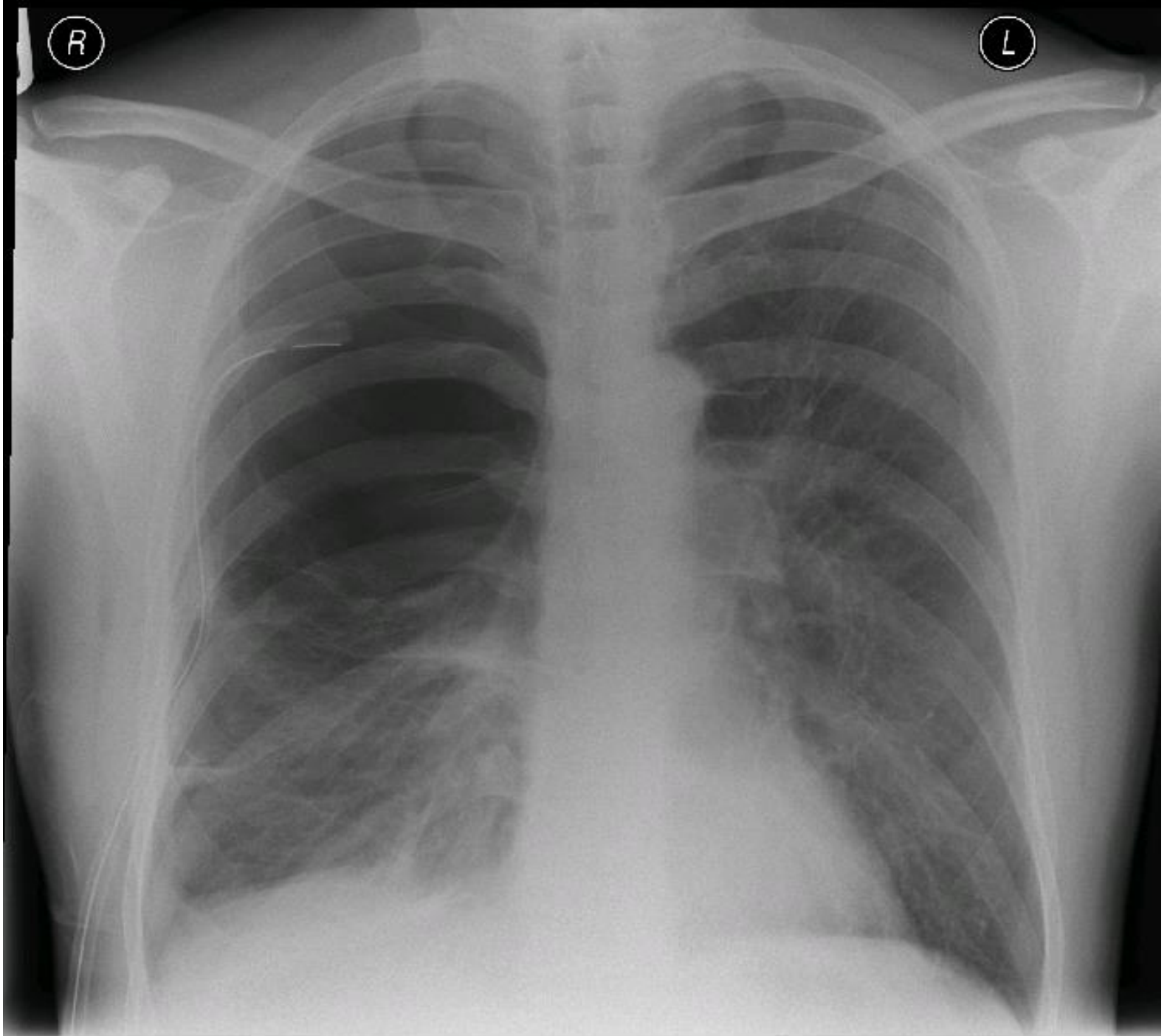


Investigations...?

Chest pain assessment

Investigations

- To identify life threatening causes
 - ECG
 - Cardiac Enzymes
 - Chest X ray



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“He’s complaining of chest pain, shortness of breath, cramps and dizziness. Do you sell earplugs?”

MASTER YOUR CLINICAL SKILLS

I AM SO HAPPY
MY SHIFT IS
OVER. I LEFT MY
ADMISSION WITH
CHEST PAIN FOR
THE NIGHT NURSE
TO ASSESS.

MANAGING
THE PATIENT
WITH CHEST
PAIN

NURSE,
WHERE IS
YOUR
HEART?

