

# PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND RESPIRATORY DISORDERS

Primary Care Paramedicine

Module: 11  
Section: 01



- You respond lights and siren to a high rise apartment building for a 18 y/o F patient that is conscious and breathing, short of breath with an altered level of consciousness



- Pt is located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor
  - Difficult to fit all of your equipment into the elevator
- Arrive at door and greeted by roommate and guided to living room
- Find university aged F student tripodding, tachypnic, with cyanosis to lips
- Blue puffer on coffee table
- Auscultation of lungs reveals very little AW with high pitched inspiratory and expiratory wheezes
- HR 134, BP 160/100, RR 34, hemoglobin saturation is 88%

Upper Airway	Lower Airway
FBAO	COPD
Blunt trauma	Asthma
Penetrating trauma	Pulmonary embolism
Infections	Infections
Angioedema	Pulmonary edema
Cancer	Cancer

Neurological
CVA
Neuromuscular disease (ALS)

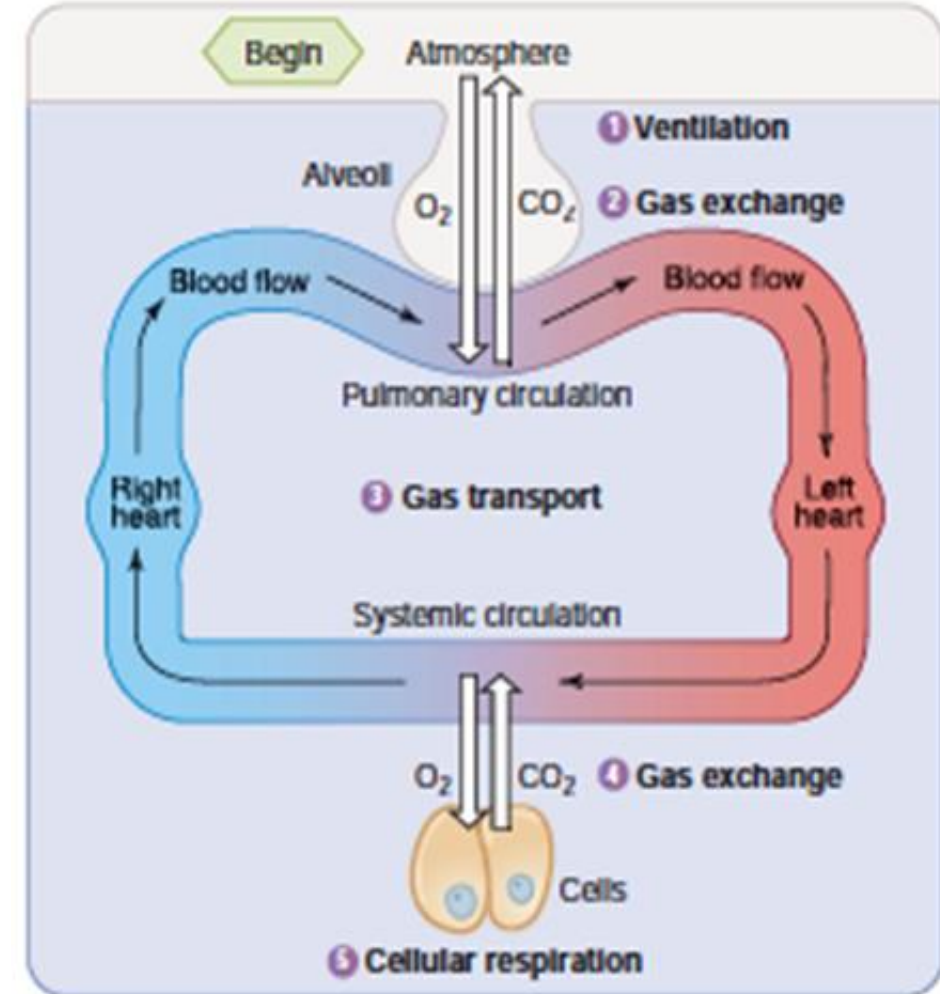
- Physiology Review
- Pulmonary protective mechanisms
- Pathophysiology

- In the 2011 Canadian Community Health Survey, 2.5 million Canadians, or 8.6% of the population age 12 and older, reported being diagnosed with asthma
- The leading conditions for which patients were admitted from EDs were respiratory disease (COPD), heart failure and pneumonia. The time spent until decision to admit for these conditions ranged from 10.7 to 11.6 hour and the additional time waiting for an inpatient bed ranged from 25.3 to 26.9 hours

- Gas exchange
- The process by which oxygen is taken in and carbon dioxide is eliminated
  - Ventilation
  - Diffusion
  - Perfusion



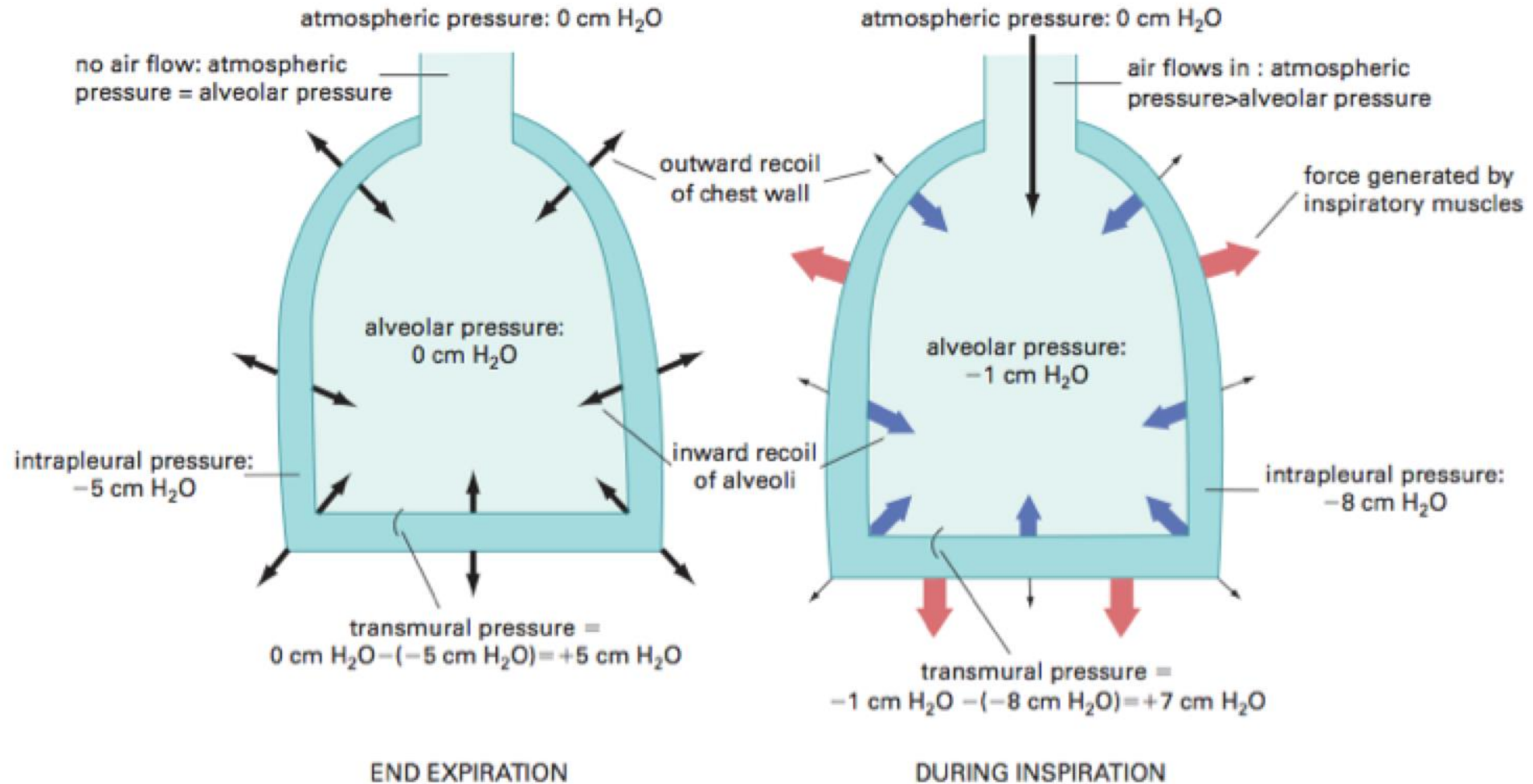
- Ventilation: Exchange of air between atmosphere and alveoli by bulk flow
- Exchange of  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  between alveolar air and blood in lung capillaries by diffusion
- Transport of  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  through pulmonary and systemic circulation by bulk flow
- Exchange of  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  between blood in tissue capillaries and cells in tissues by diffusion
- Cellular utilization of  $O_2$  and production of  $CO_2$

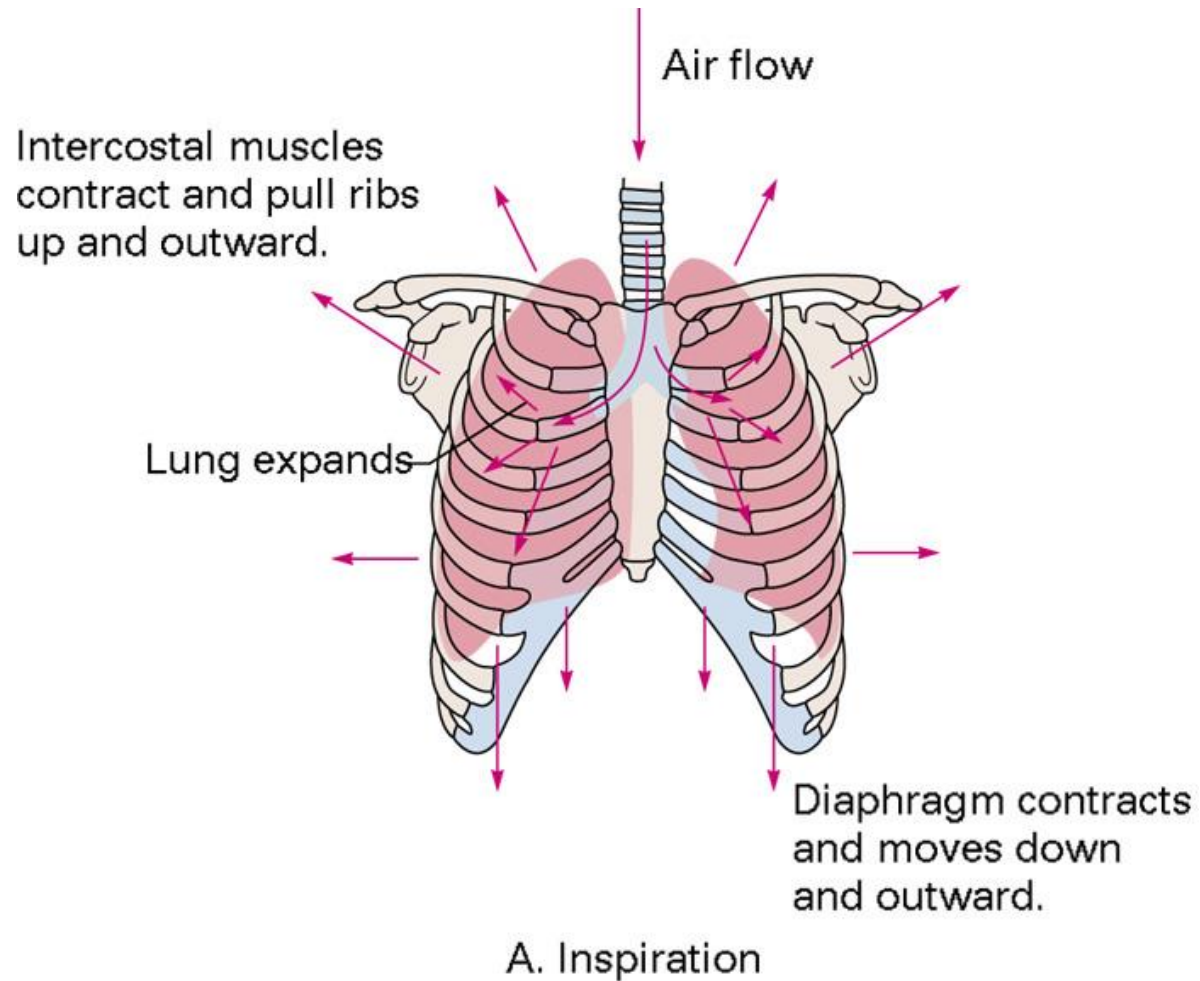




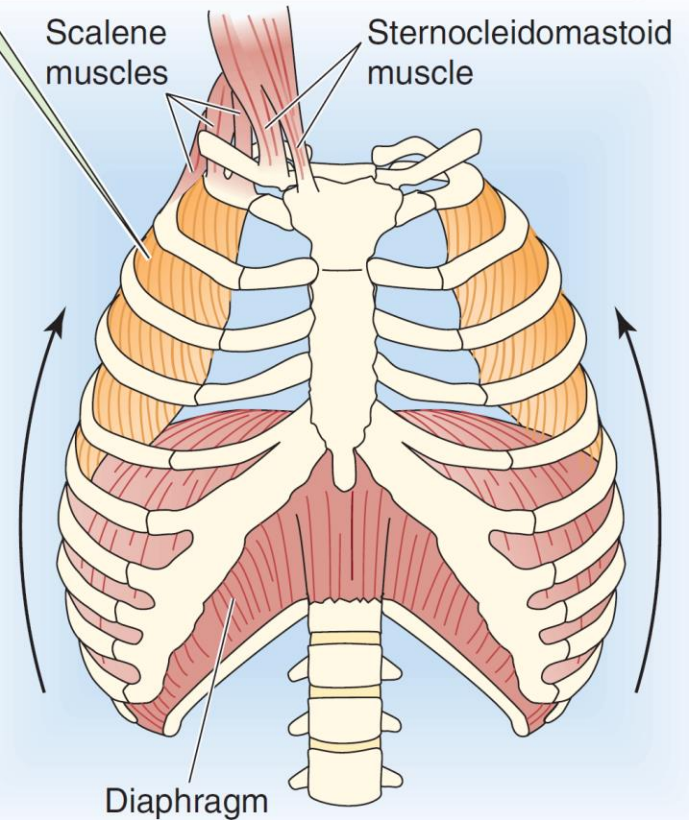
- Lung structurally attached at the hilum
- Thin layer of pleural fluid between visceral and parietal pleura
- Pressures
  - Atmospheric
  - Intrapleural
  - Alveolar

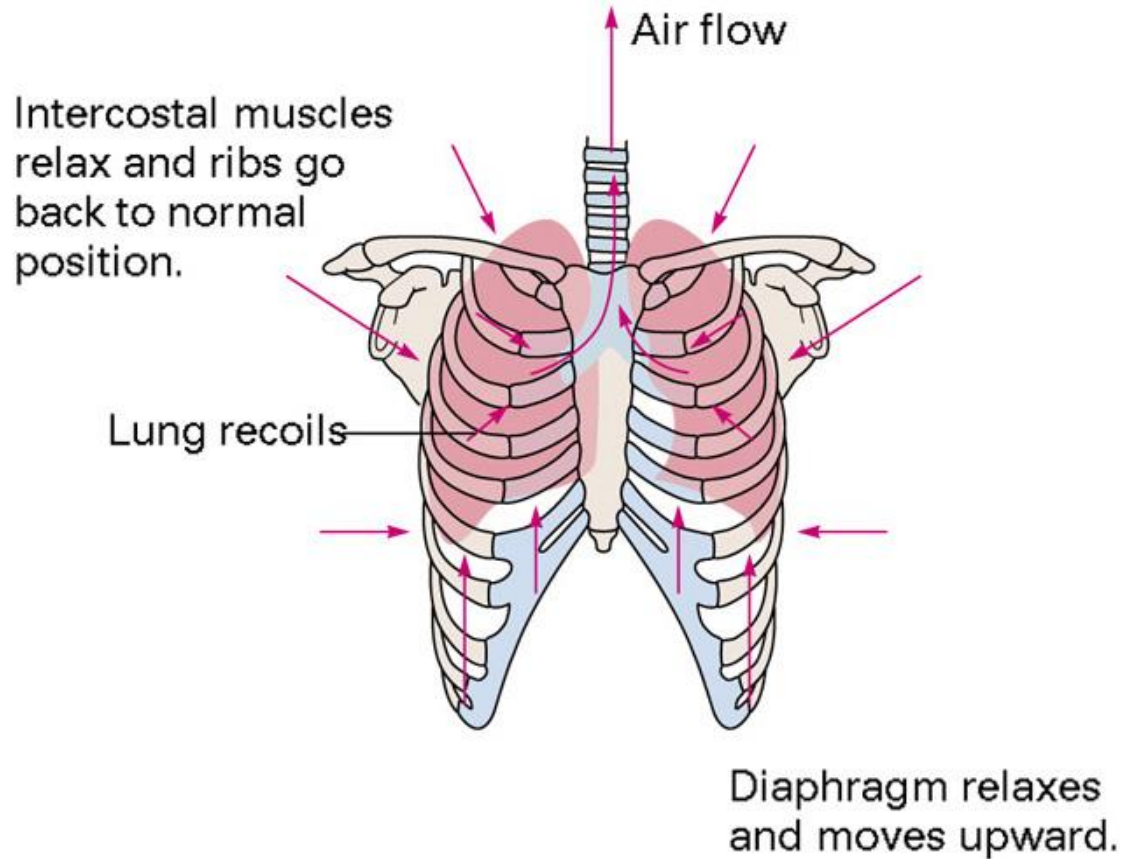
# Pressure/Volume Relationship





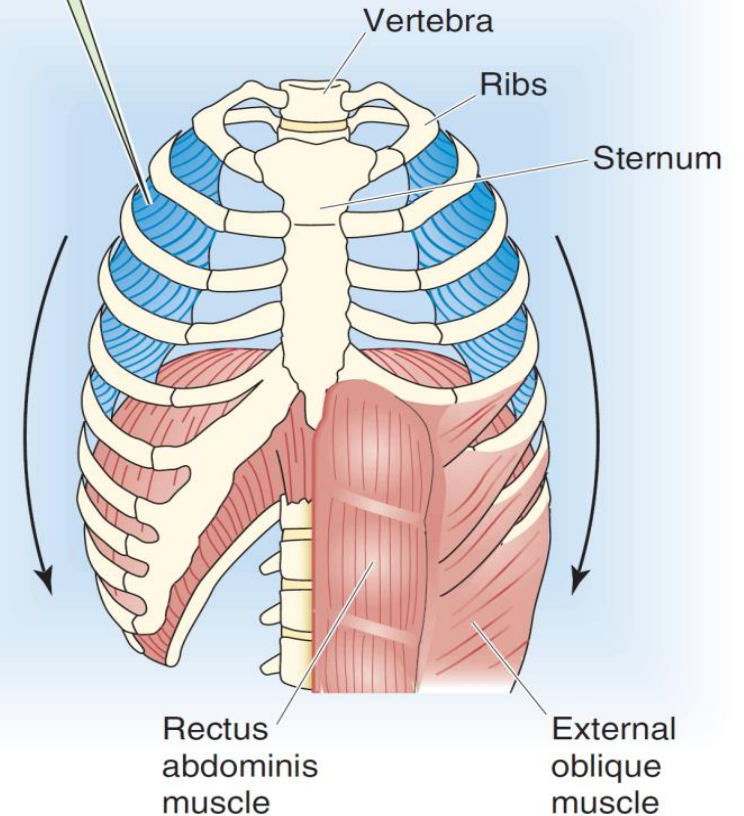
External intercostal muscles slope obliquely between ribs, *forward* and downward. Because the attachment to the lower rib is farther forward from the axis of rotation, contraction raises the lower rib more than it depresses the upper rib.





B. Expiration

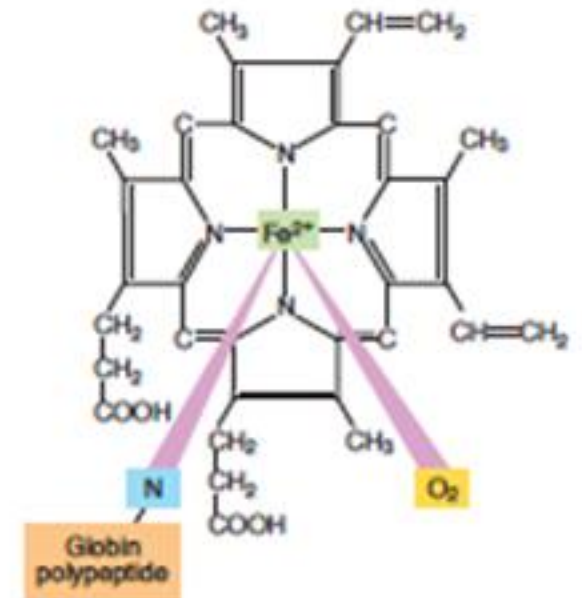
Internal intercostal muscles slope obliquely between ribs, *backward* and downward, depressing the upper rib more than raising the lower rib.





- Process by which gases move between alveoli and pulmonary capillaries
- Gases flow from areas of high to low concentration
- O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Move across the membrane according to their concentration gradients

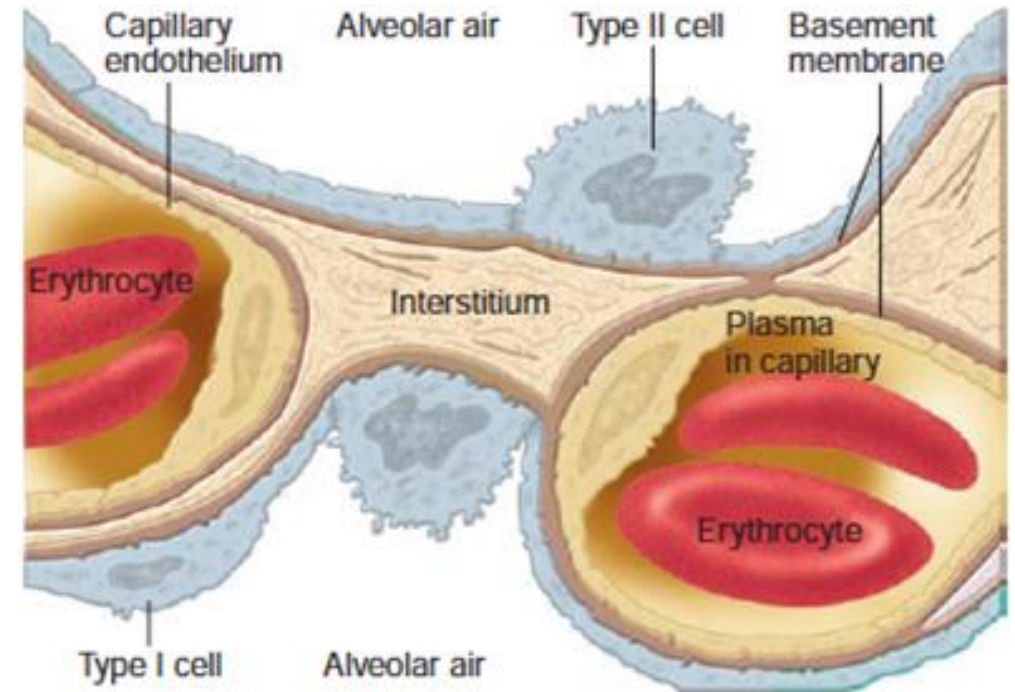
- Four iron heme and one protein globin molecules
- Oxygen binds to heme molecule
- Carbon monoxide (CO) has an affinity 200x that of oxygen





- Majority transported as bicarbonate ions
  - Transported in red blood cells and released at lungs
- Rest transported
  - Bound to hemoglobin
  - Dissolved in plasma

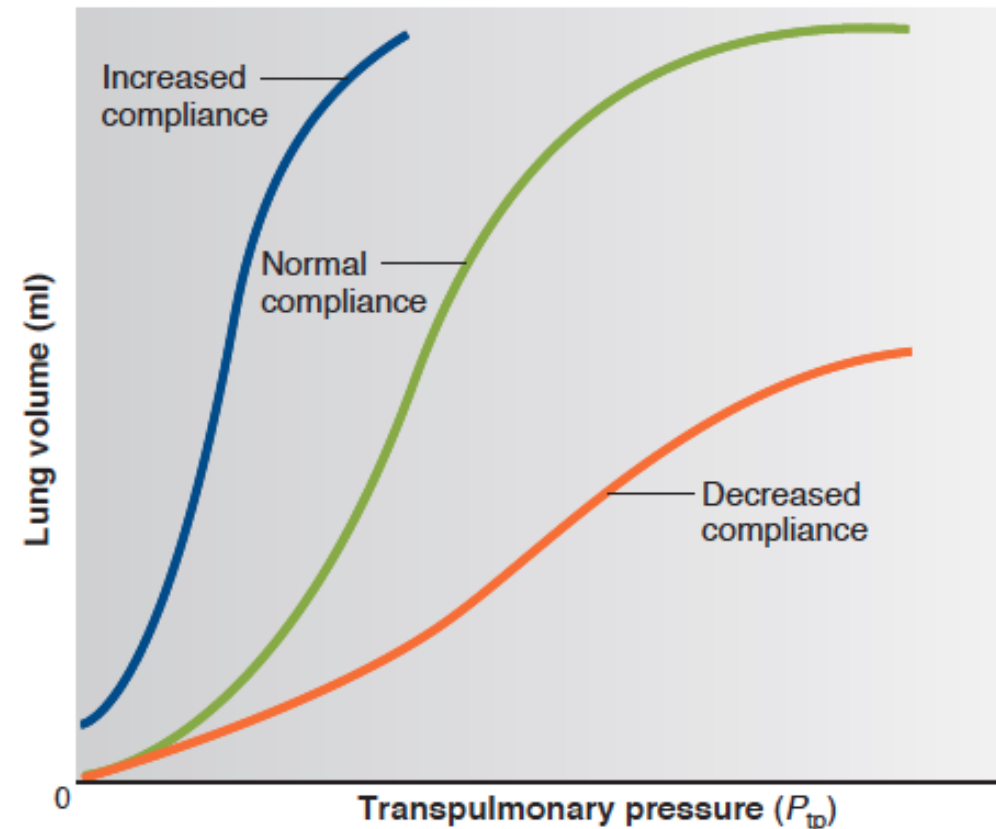
- Type 1 alveolar cells
- Type 2 great alveolar cells
- Alveolar macrophages



**Table 13–4** Some Important Facts About Pulmonary Surfactant

1. Pulmonary surfactant is a mixture of phospholipids and protein.
2. It is secreted by type II alveolar cells.
3. It lowers the surface tension of the water layer at the alveolar surface, which increases lung compliance, thereby making the lungs easier to expand.
4. Its surface tension is lower in smaller alveoli, thus stabilizing alveoli.
5. A deep breath increases its secretion by stretching the type II cells. Its concentration decreases when breaths are small.
6. Production in the fetal lung occurs in late gestation.

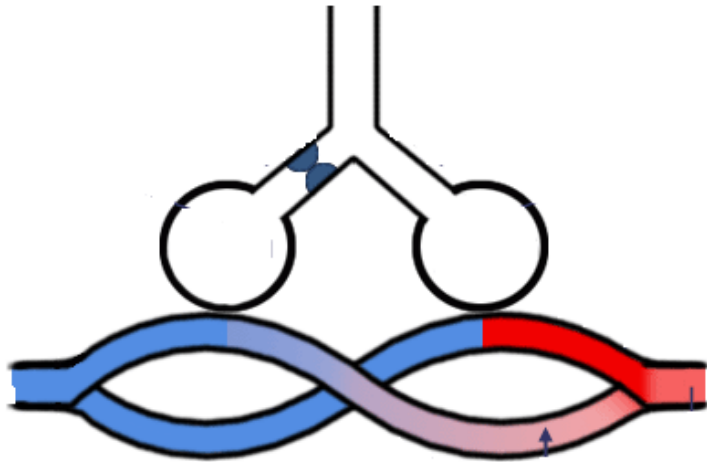
- The greater the compliance the easier to breathe/ventilate
- The opposite of lung stiffness



- $V = \text{Ventilation}$ ,  $Q = \text{Perfusion}$
- Alterations to either side of the equation will cause a shift away from the normal 0.8 ratio
- What would be some potential causes?

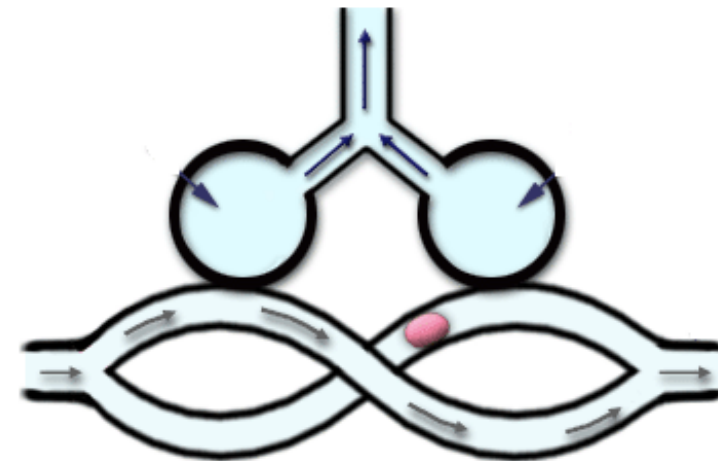
## Inadequate Ventilation (Pulmonary Shunt)

- Perfusion exceeds ventilation
- Blood passes through the lung receiving no  $O_2$  at all
- Shunt - producing if  $V/Q < 0.8$



## Inadequate Perfusion (Dead Space Ventilation)

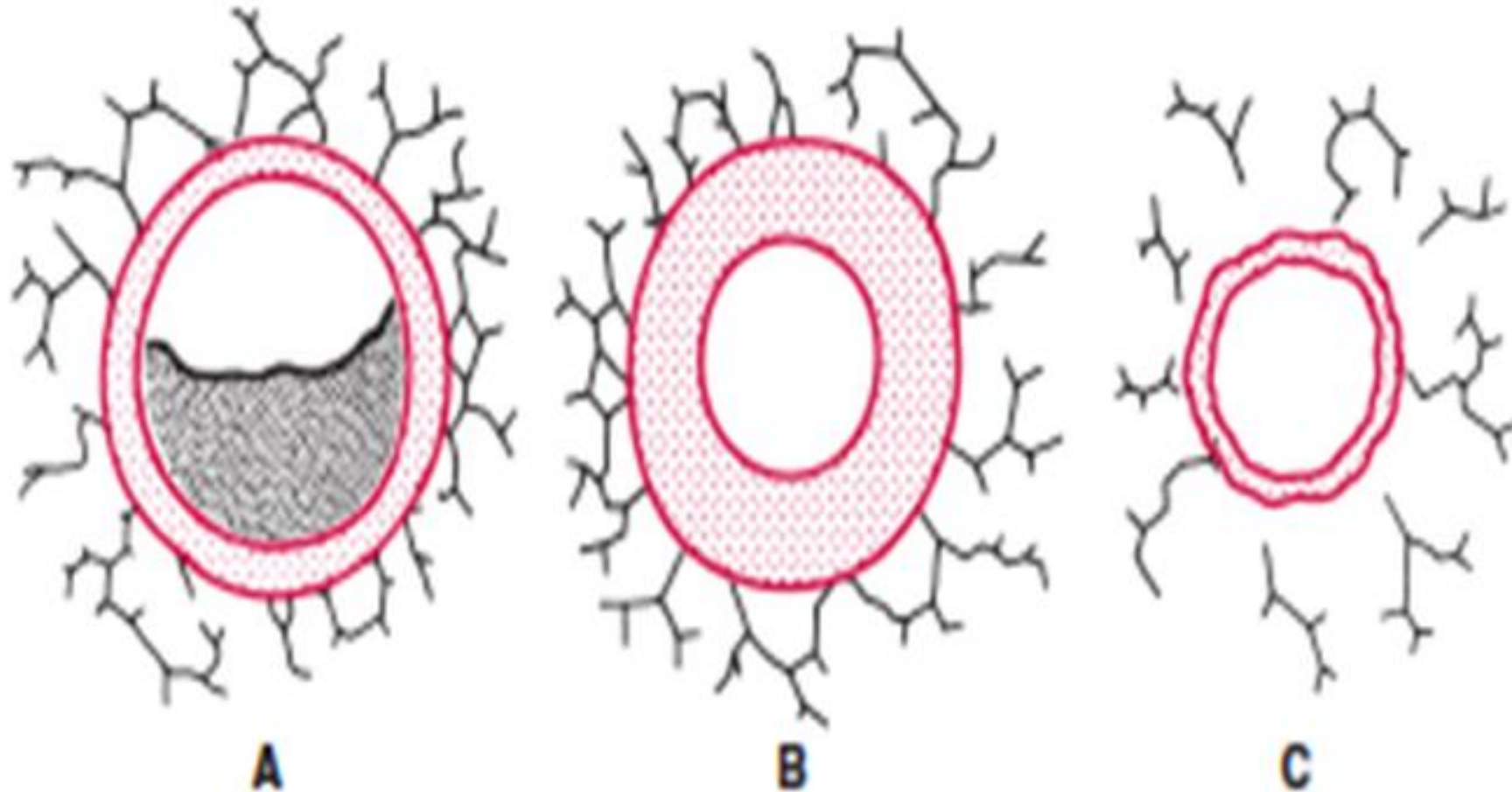
- Ventilated exceeds perfusion
- Gas doesn't take part in gas exchange and constitutes an alveolar dead space
- Dead space-producing if  $V/Q > 0.8$

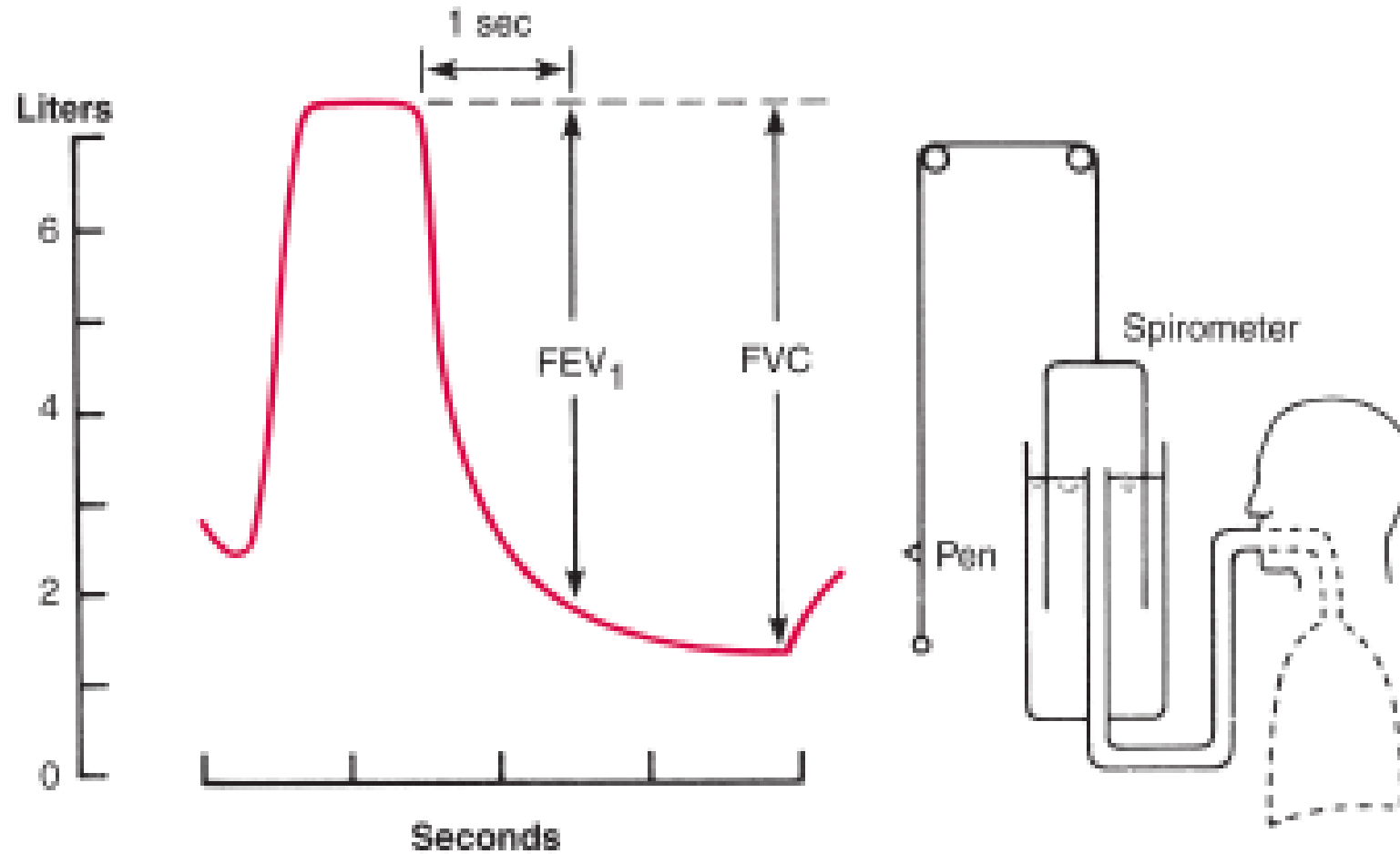


**Inadequate Ventilation and Perfusion is a Silent Unit**



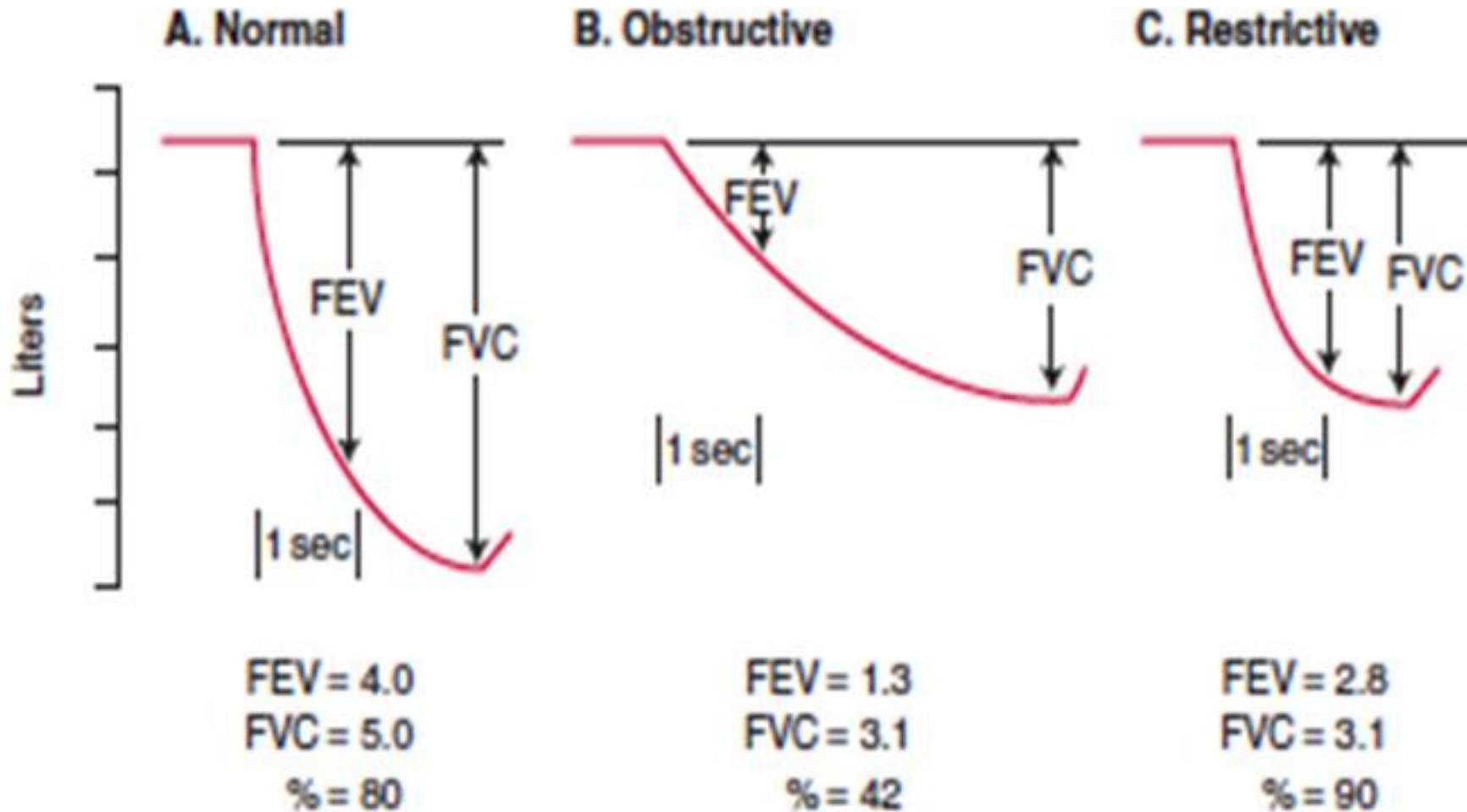
# What Causes AW Resistance?





**Figure 1-1.** Measurement of Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV<sub>1</sub>) and Vital Capacity (FVC).

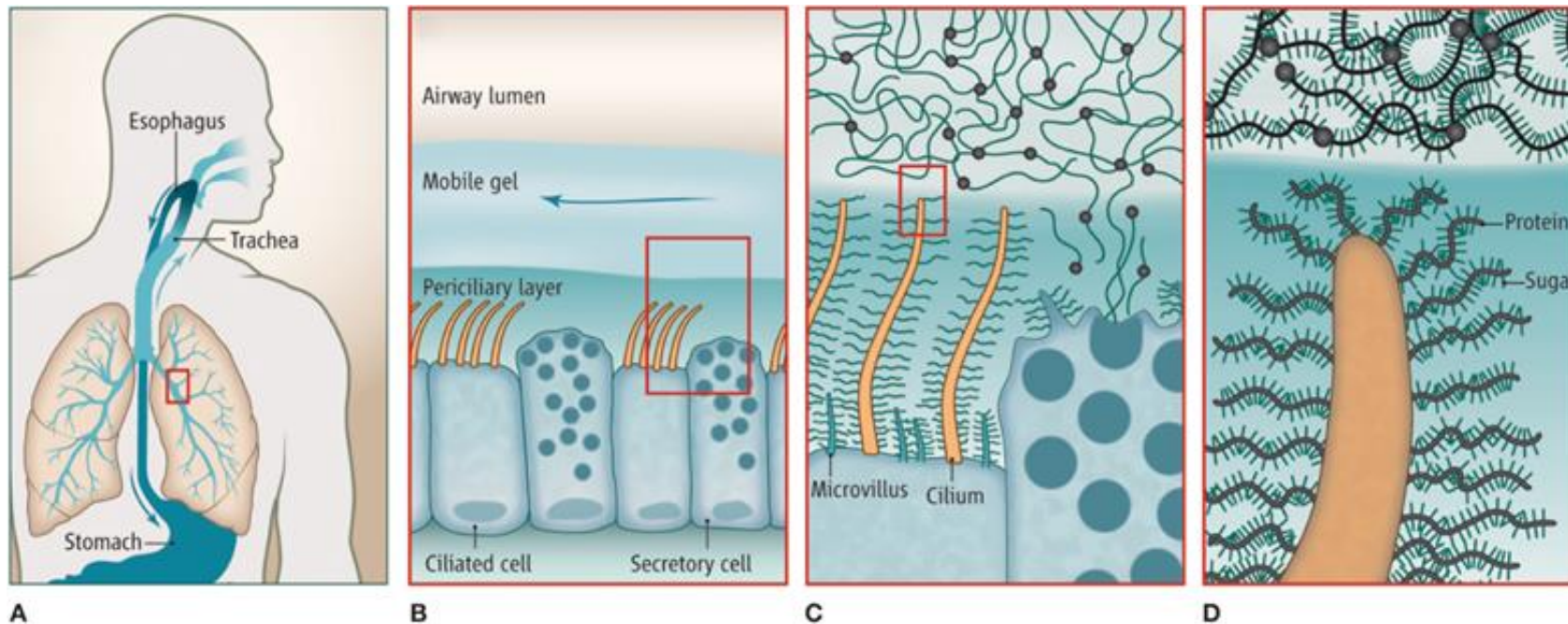
# Restrictive vs Obstructive Diseases

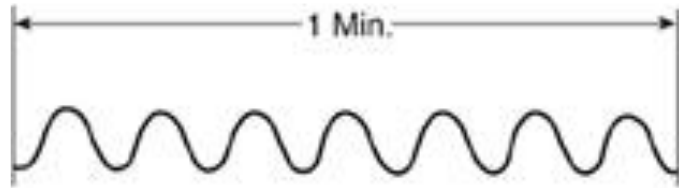


**Figure 1-2.** Normal, Obstructive, and Restrictive Patterns of a Forced Expiration.

Restrictive	Obstructive
Lung is unable to expand fully	Obstruction to airflow leading to resistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced FEV<sub>1</sub>, reduced FVC</li><li>• Reduced lung compliance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very reduced FEV<sub>1</sub>, FVC</li><li>• Lung compliance can be normal</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diseases of the pleura</li><li>• Diseases of the chest wall</li><li>• Diseases of neuromuscular apparatus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chronic bronchitis</li><li>• Aspiration of Foreign Material</li><li>• Asthma</li><li>• Emphysema (increased compliance)</li></ul>

- Coughing
- Airway surface liquid (ASL)
- Alveolar macrophages

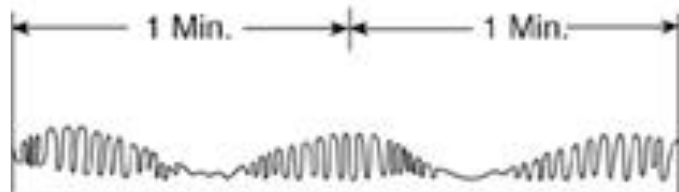




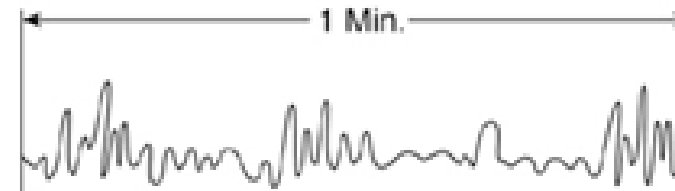
Normal



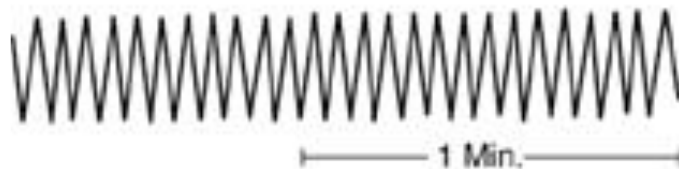
Central  
neurogenic  
hyperventilation



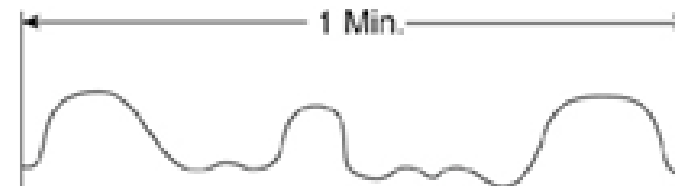
Cheyne-  
Stokes  
breathing



Ataxic (Biot's)  
pattern



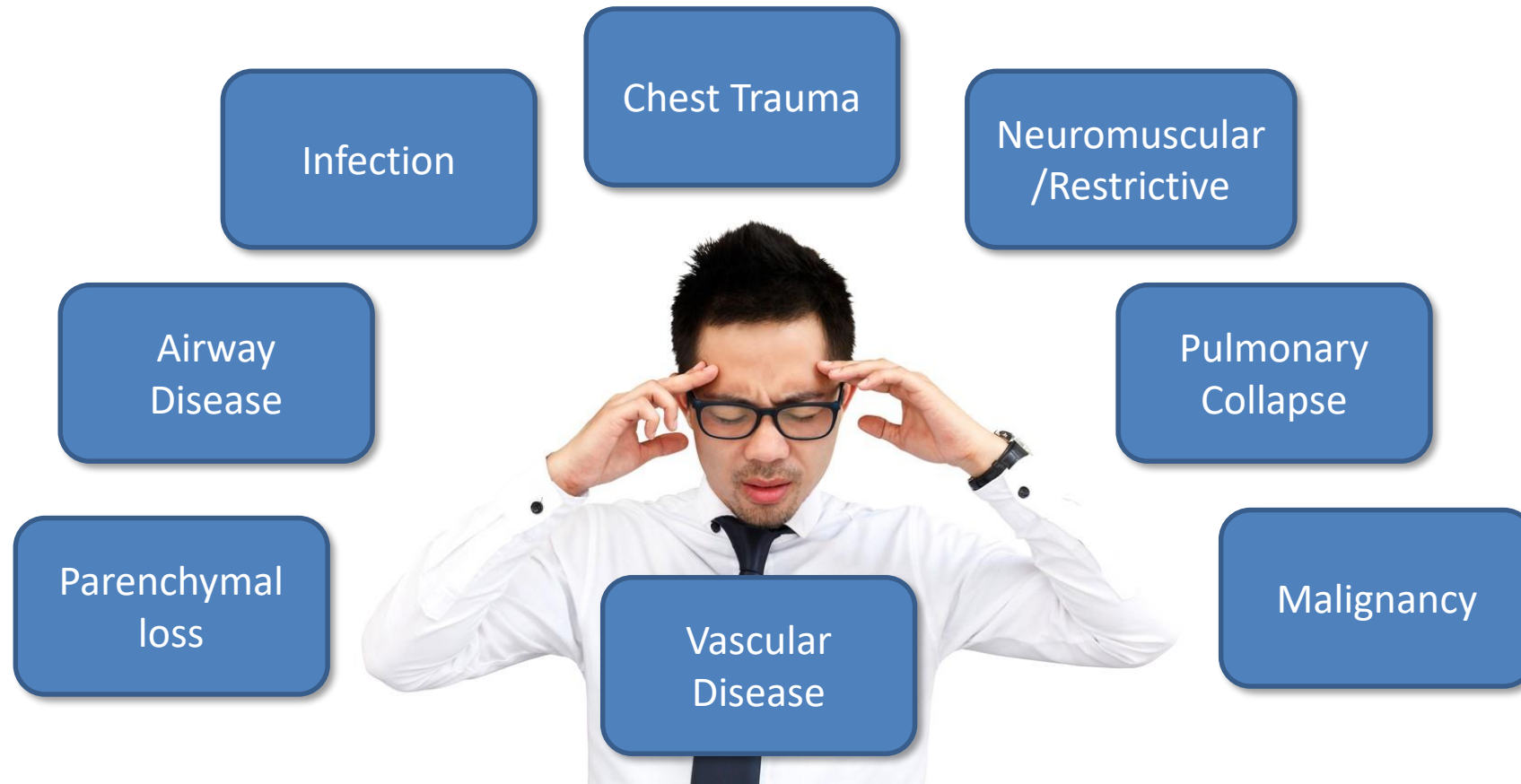
Kussmaul's



Apneustic  
pattern



- Not as simple as asthma, COPD and pneumonia



Chest Trauma	Airway Disease	Vascular Disease	Pulmonary Collapse
Flail chest	Asthma	Pulmonary embolism	Pneumothorax
Ruptured diaphragm	COPD		Significant atelectasis
	FBAO		
	Fibrosis		

Infection	Malignancy	Neuromuscular	Parenchymal loss
Bronchitis	Metastasis	ALS	Pulmonary edema
Pneumonia	Lung cancer	Ankylosing spondylitis	Sarcoidosis

- Hyperventilation syndrome
- COPD
- Asthma
- Pneumonia
- Pulmonary Edema
  - ARDS
- PE & DVT
- Pleural Effusion
- SARS

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **HYPERVENTILATION SYNDROME**

- Ventilation in excess of metabolic needs
- Controversial
  - Some suggest removing this condition
- Etiology
  - Organic
    - CNS
    - Acidosis
  - Panic
    - Hyperventilation due to panic is controllable
      - Voluntary vs Involuntary

## Signs and Symptoms

- Light-headedness
- Paresthesias
- Palpitations
- Diaphoresis
- Carpopedal spasm

## Management

- Reassurance
  - Coached breathing
  - Data suggests just as effective, it not more effective than sedative medications
- Sedatives

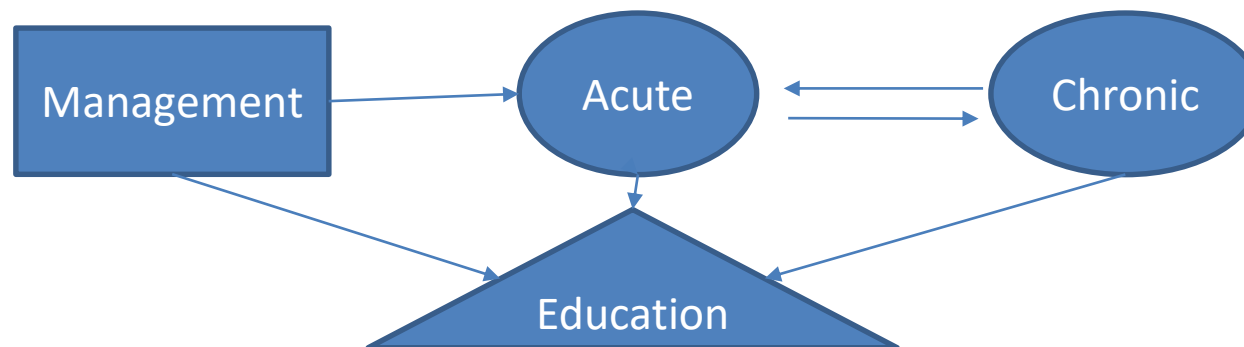


Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

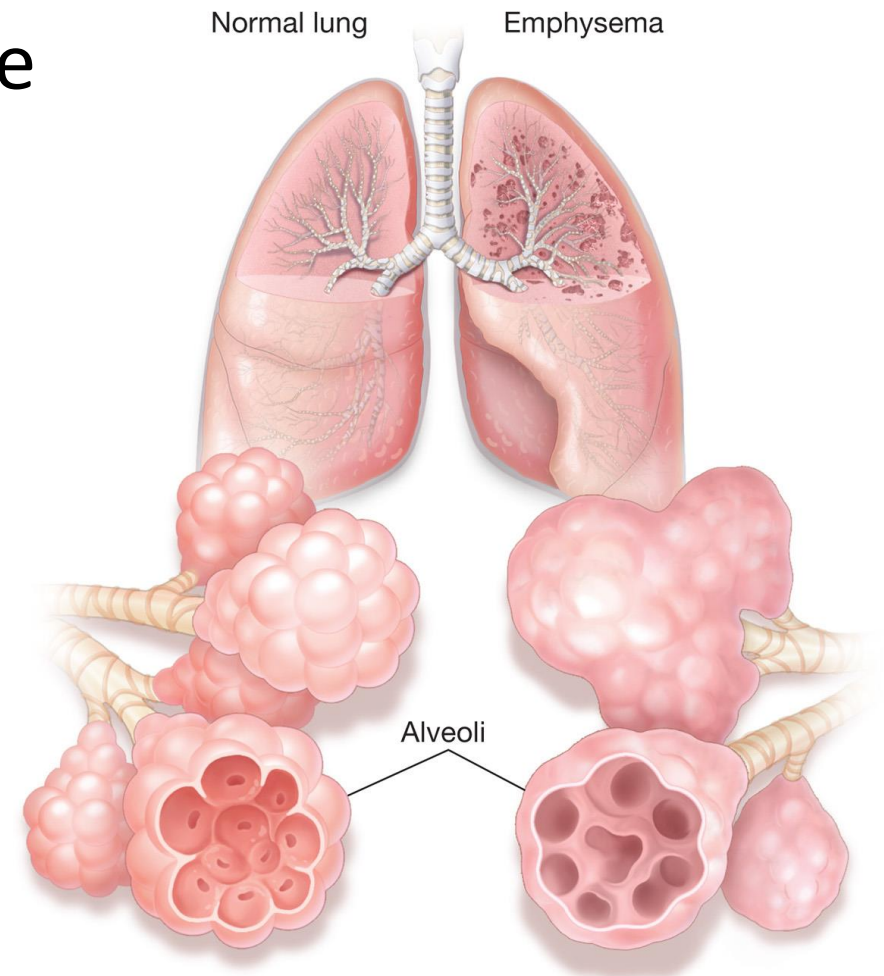
# **COPD**

# Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

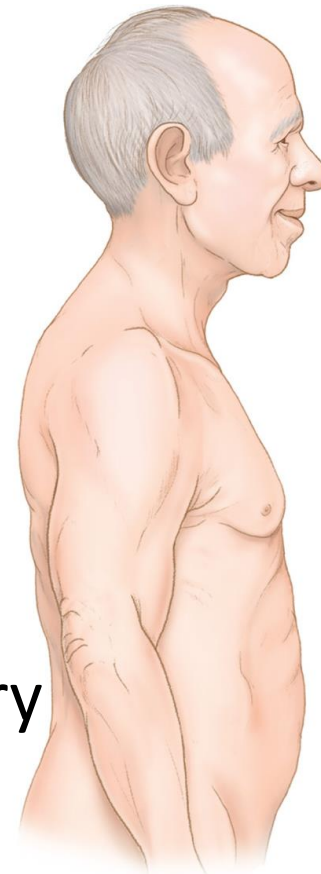
- In 2005 it was estimated that 4.4% (700,000) of Canadians aged 35 years or older have probable COPD.
- The prevalence of COPD among men is 3.9% and 4.8% among women.
- Highest rates for admission and readmission to hospital due to chronic disease in Canada
- Most minor-moderate severity patients die from cardiac causes and lung cancer as a result of COPD



- Destruction of alveolar walls distal to the terminal bronchioles
- Contributing factors
  - Heredity
  - Cigarette smoking
  - Environmental factors



- Weakening of alveolar walls
  - Loss of elastic recoil
  - Air trapping
  - Pursed lipped breathing
  - Barrel chest
- Unable to expel carbon dioxide
  - Chronic increased respiratory rate and accessory muscle use
  - SOB OE
  - Polycythemia



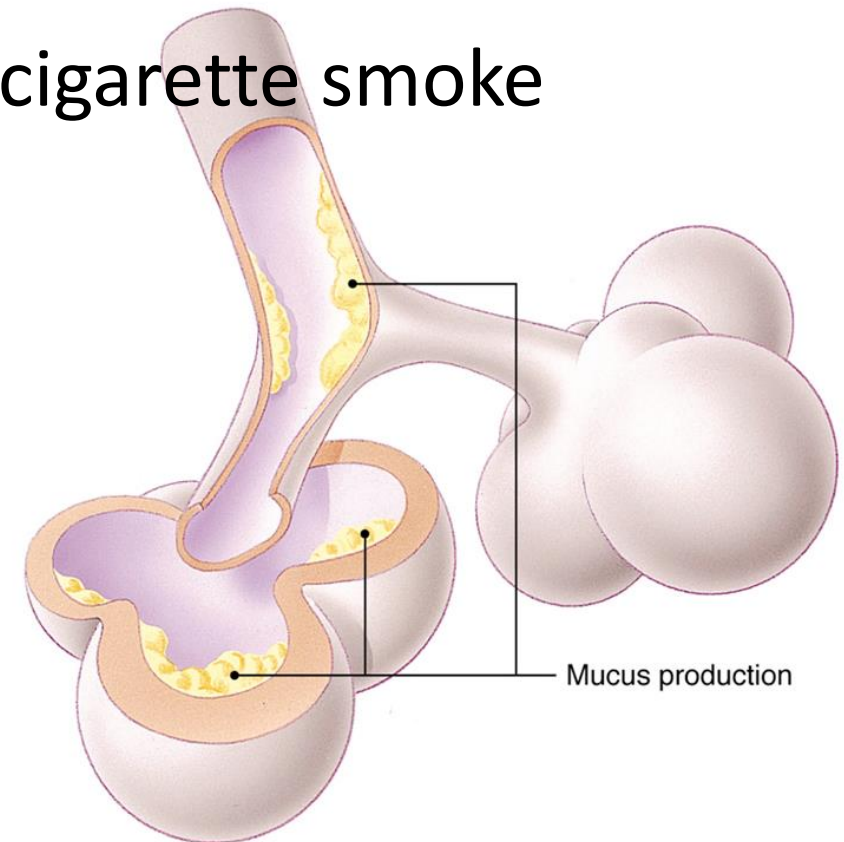
Normal



Patient with emphysema

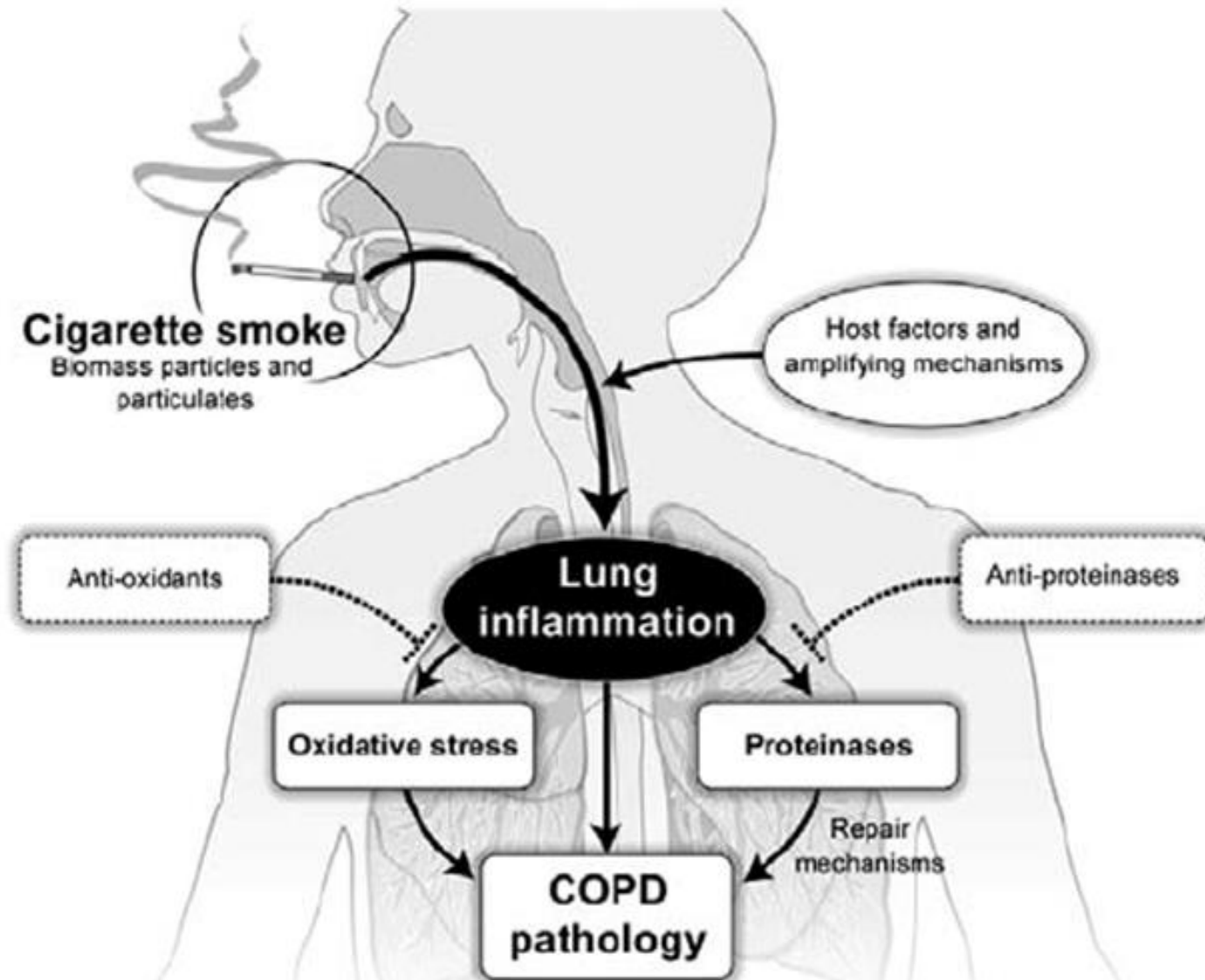
- History
  - Recent weight loss, dyspnea with exertion
  - Cigarette and tobacco usage
  - Lack of cough
- Physical Exam
  - Barrel chest
  - Prolonged expiration and rapid rest phase
  - Thin
  - Pink skin due to extra red cell production
  - Hypertrophy of accessory muscles
  - “Pink Puffers”

- Increased number of goblet cells in the respiratory tree
- Production of large quantity of sputum
- Often occurs after prolonged exposure to cigarette smoke



- Alveoli not severely affected
- Gas exchange is compromised
  - Decreased alveolar ventilation
- Hypoxia
  - Pulmonary vasoconstriction
  - Cor pulmonale
- Vital capacity is decreased





- Incurable
- Progressive
  - The only thing that can slow the course of the disease is?
- Most common cause of exacerbation is viral infection and tracheobronchial bacterial infection
  - Always suspect in the SOB COPD patient

Prevent exacerbations

Reassure patient/relieve anxiety

Reverse hypoxia

Prolong life

Improve QOL

Prevent intubation

Comfort/End of life care

Improve exercise intolerance



**Table 1: COPD classification by symptoms/disability**

<b>COPD stage<sup>‡</sup></b>	<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Spirometry</b>
At Risk (not yet COPD)	Asymptomatic smoker or ex-smoker or chronic cough/sputum	FEV <sub>1</sub> ≥ 80% predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC ≥ 0.7
Mild	Shortness of breath from COPD with strenuous exercise or while hurrying on the level or walking up a slight hill	FEV <sub>1</sub> 60% - 79% predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC < 0.7
Moderate	Shortness of breath from COPD causing the patient to walk slower than most people of the same age on the level or stop after walking about 100 m on the level	FEV <sub>1</sub> 40% - 59% predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC < 0.7
Severe	Shortness of breath from COPD resulting in the patient too breathless to leave the house, or breathless after dressing or undressing or the presence of chronic respiratory failure or clinical signs of right heart failure	FEV <sub>1</sub> 30% - 39% predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC < 0.7
Very Severe		FEV <sub>1</sub> < 30% predicted FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC < 0.7

## Signs and Symptoms

- Pursed lip breathing
- AMU
- Pulsus paradoxus
- Tachypnea
- Tachycardia
- Hypertension

### When to consider COPD diagnosis

**Dyspnea** that is: Progressive (worsens over time). Characteristically worse with exercise. Persistent.

**Chronic cough:** May be intermittent and may be unproductive.

**Chronic sputum production:**

Any pattern of chronic sputum production may indicate COPD.

**History of exposure to risk factors:**

Tobacco smoke (including popular local preparations). Smoke from home cooking and heating fuels. Occupational dusts and chemicals.

**Family history of COPD**

Spirometry



### Cardinal Symptoms of AECOPD

Increase in **dyspnea**

Increased sputum **volume**

Increased sputum **purulence**

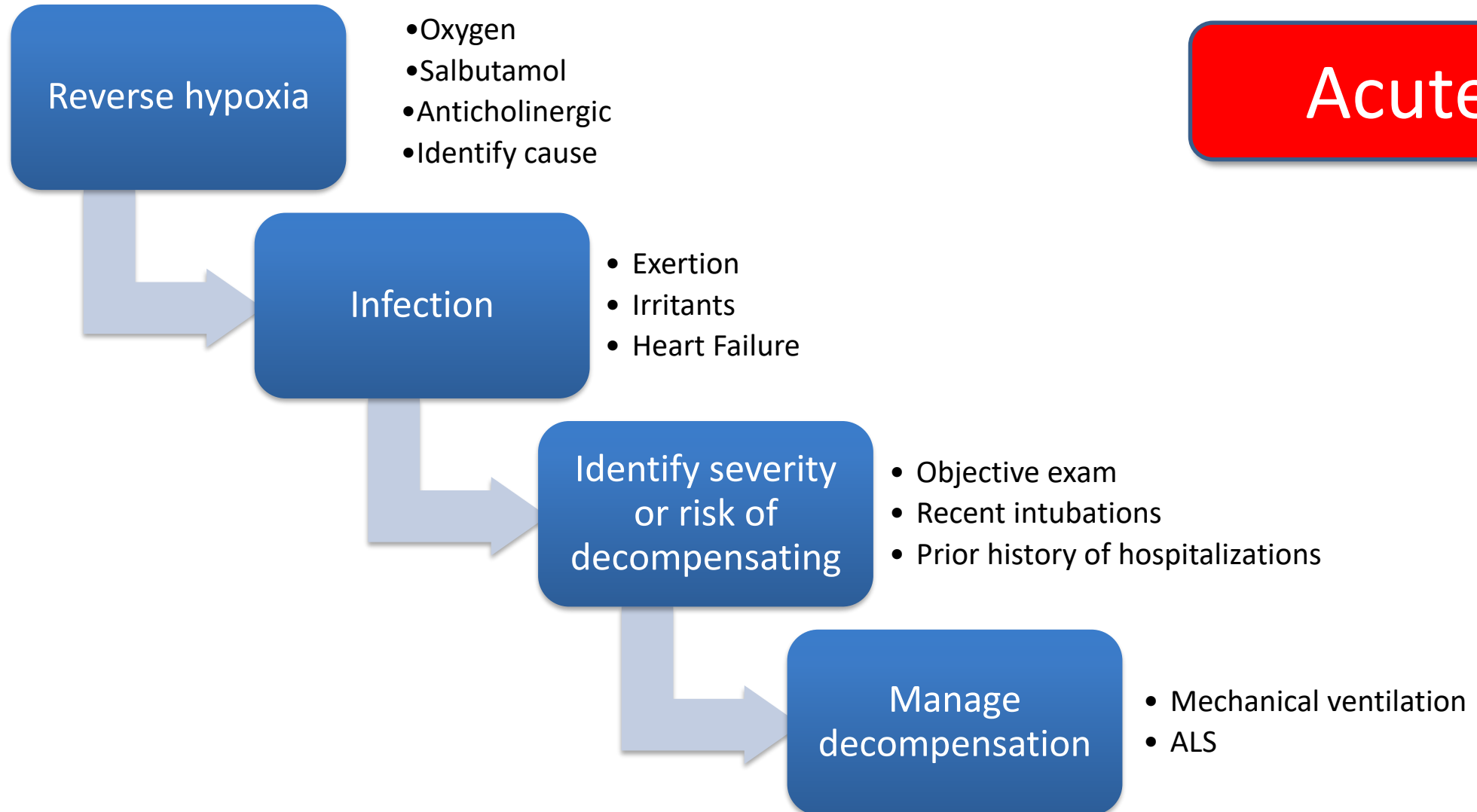
} Sustained for 48 hours compared to baseline

One cardinal symptom: Treatment with antibiotics may not be necessary

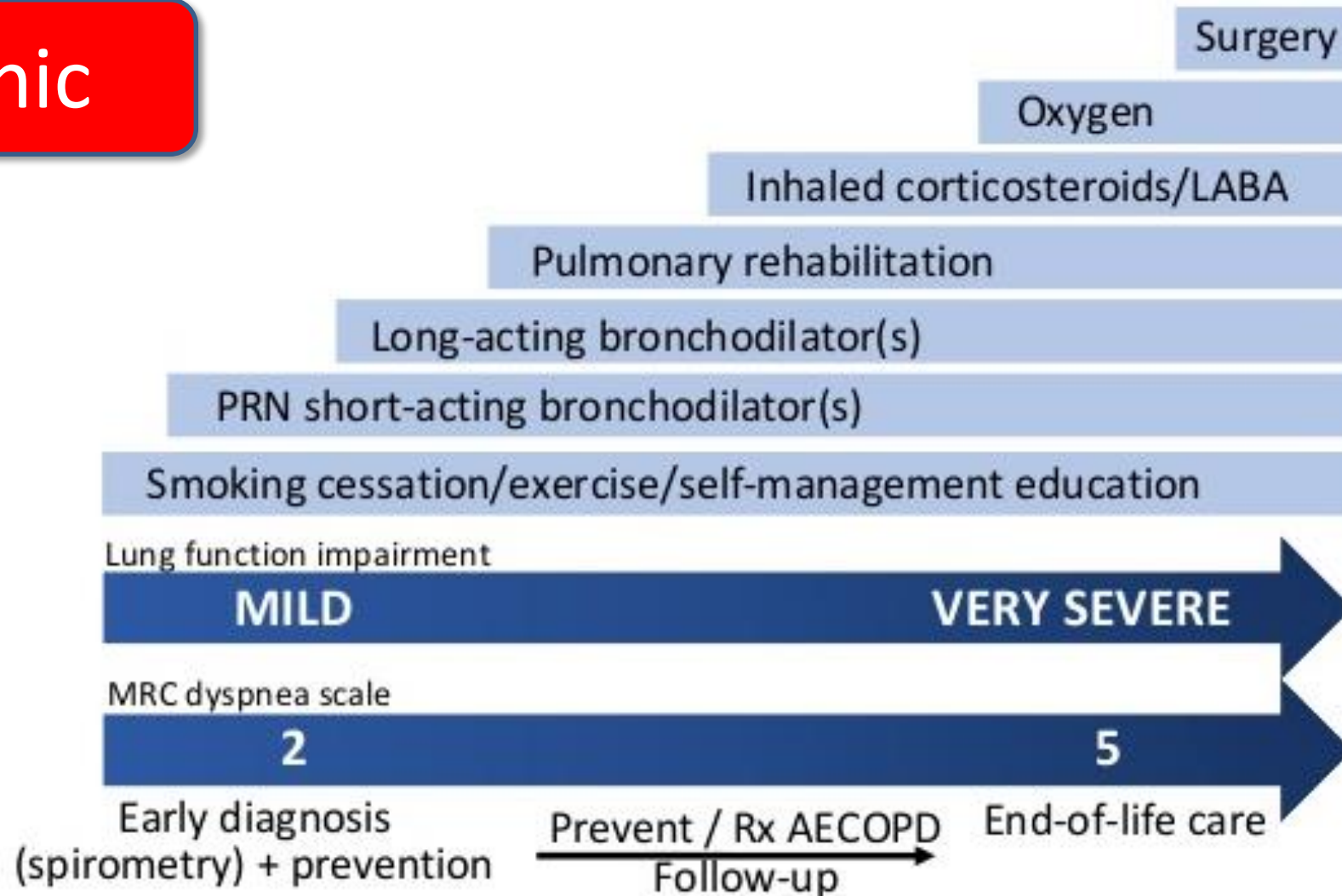
Two cardinal symptoms: Treat with antibiotics if one symptom is increased purulence

Three cardinal symptoms: Always treat with antibiotics

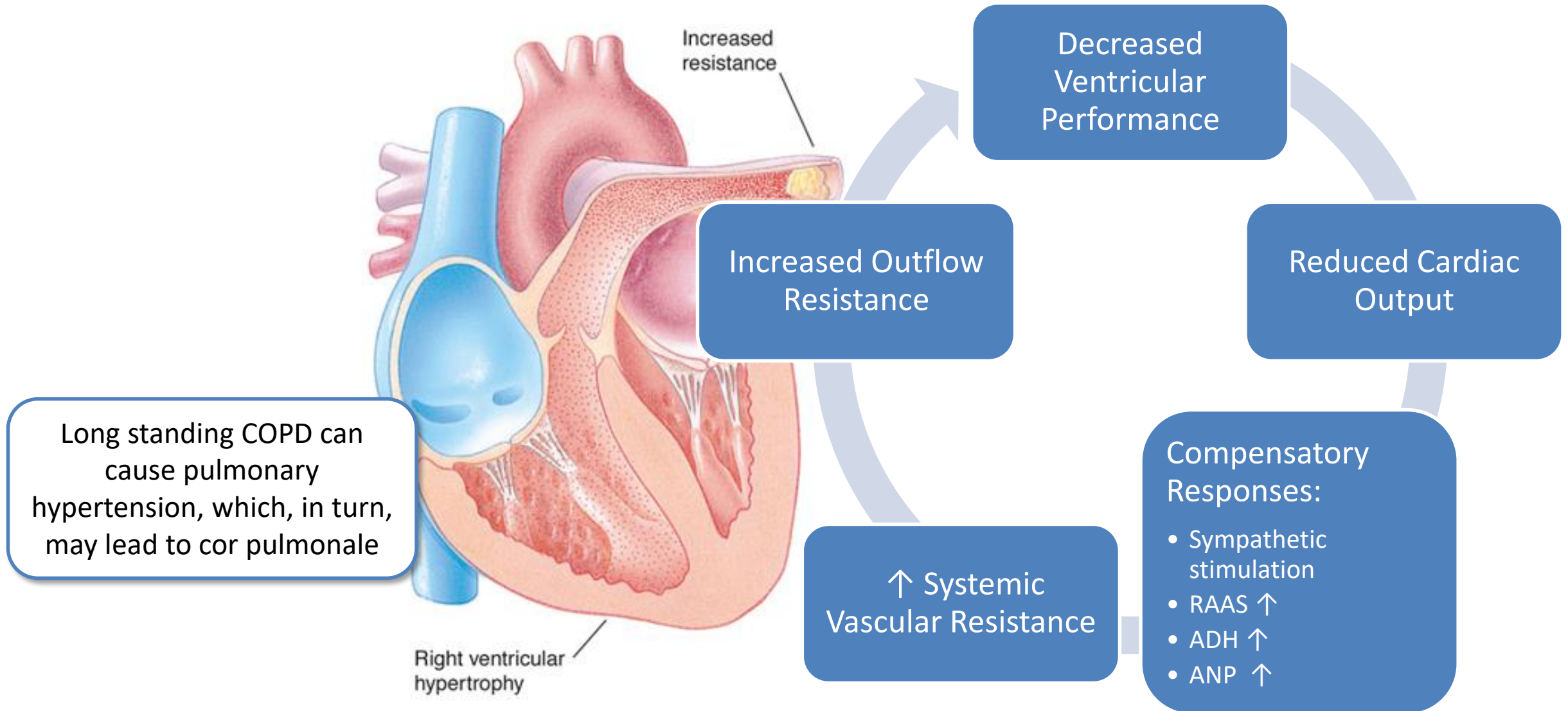




**Chronic**



- Normally the amount of  $p\text{CO}_2$  stimulates the respiratory drive in the healthy individual
- It is theorized that prolonged exposure to high  $p\text{CO}_2$  may result in the patient's normal respiratory drive to change to rely on levels of  $p\text{O}_2$
- A universal misnomer is that if you give too much oxygen to patients with COPD they may lose their stimulus to breath.
  - Physicians will cite rising  $\text{CO}_2$  levels in patients treated with oxygen as evidence of this.
- The fundamental flaw in this theory:
  - It is the blood oxygen content that is important, not the inspired fraction.
  - Patients, depending on the extent of disease, will have differing extents of V/Q mismatch and diffusion defects
  - the patient needs enough inspired oxygen to return the  $\text{PO}_2$  to what is normal for them

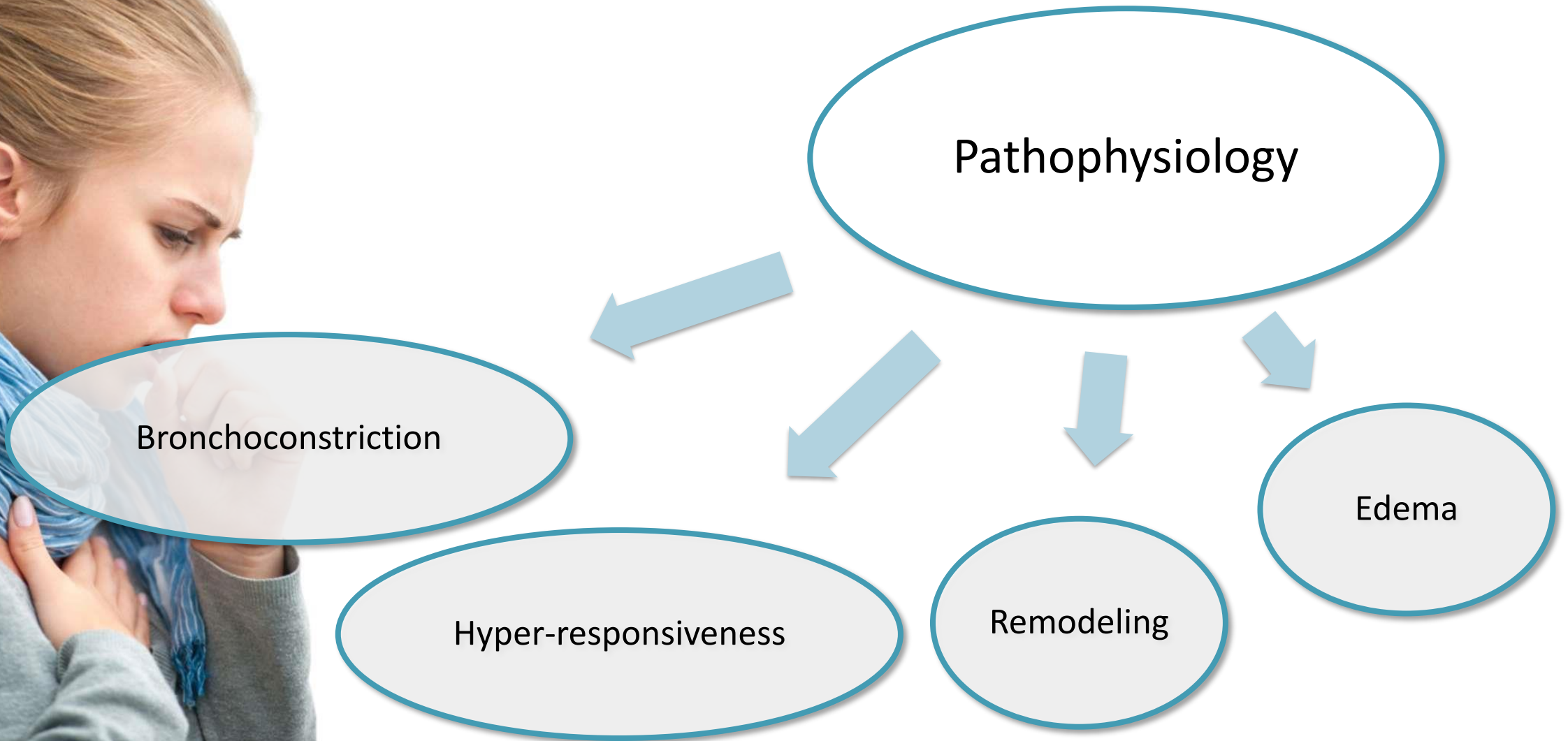


Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **ASTHMA**

- In early life, the prevalence of asthma is higher in boys. At puberty, however, the sex ratio shifts, and asthma appears predominantly in women
- A number of long-term prospective studies of children admitted to hospital with documented RSV have shown that approximately 40 percent of these infants will continue to wheeze or have asthma in later childhood
- Atopy is a genetic predisposition for the development of an immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated response to common aeroallergens, is the strongest identifiable predisposing factor for developing asthma. (“Hyperallergic”)
  - Usually consists of:
    - Asthma
    - Allergic rhinitis
    - Eczema (dermatitis)





Key clinical indicators

The demonstration of variable expiratory airflow compromise, preferably by spirometry

Exclude other potential diagnosis

## Triggers

Pet Dander

Pollen

Cockroaches

Mold

Smoke, strong odours

Exercise

Sulfites

Cold air



## BOX 3-1. KEY INDICATORS FOR CONSIDERING A DIAGNOSIS OF ASTHMA

Consider a diagnosis of asthma and performing spirometry if any of these indicators is present.\* These indicators are not diagnostic by themselves, but the presence of multiple key indicators increases the probability of a diagnosis of asthma. Spirometry is needed to establish a diagnosis of asthma.

- Wheezing—high-pitched whistling sounds when breathing out—especially in children. (Lack of wheezing and a normal chest examination do not exclude asthma.)
- History of any of the following:
  - Cough, worse particularly at night
  - Recurrent wheeze
  - Recurrent difficulty in breathing
  - Recurrent chest tightness
- Symptoms occur or worsen in the presence of:
  - Exercise
  - Viral infection
  - Animals with fur or hair
  - House-dust mites (in mattresses, pillows, upholstered furniture, carpets)
  - Mold
  - Smoke (tobacco, wood)
  - Pollen
  - Changes in weather
  - Strong emotional expression (laughing or crying hard)
  - Airborne chemicals or dusts
  - Menstrual cycles
- Symptoms occur or worsen at night, awakening the patient.

\*Eczema, hay fever, or a family history of asthma or atopic diseases are often associated with asthma, but they are not key indicators.





Symptoms	Pattern	Disease History	Risk Factors for Death from Asthma
Cough	Perennial and/or seasonal	Age at onset	Past history of severe exacerbation
Wheezing	Continual or episodic	Present management and medications	≥2 hospitalizations for asthma in the past year
Shortness of breath	Onset	Medication regimen adherence	>3 ED visits for asthma in the past year
Chest tightness	Duration	History of corticosteroid use (chronic and/or intermittent)	>2 canisters per month of inhaled short-acting β <sub>2</sub> -agonist
Sputum production	Frequency	Intensive care admissions	Difficulty perceiving airflow obstruction or its severity
Fever	Aggravating factors	History of intubation	Low socioeconomic status or inner-city resident
	Usual pattern of exacerbation and outcome	Best spirometry measures	Illicit drug use
			Psychiatric disease or medical comorbidities

## Management

- Early recognition, assessment of severity and prompt initiation of treatment
- Triggers
- Rapid reversal of bronchospasm
- Oxygen
- Beta agonists
- Anticholinergic medication
- Epinephrine
- Mechanical ventilation
- CPAP
- BVM
- Additional Treatments (ACP)
  - Reduce inflammation, complications and ICU admission
  - Systemic corticosteroids
  - Magnesium
  - Mechanical ventilation
  - Intubation

- Asthma exacerbation that do not respond to conventional therapy
- Physical Exam
  - Wheezing is not present in all asthmatics
    - Silent chest
  - Speech may be limited to 1–2 consecutive words
  - Hyperinflation of the chest and accessory muscle use

FIGURE 5–2a. RISK FACTORS FOR DEATH FROM ASTHMA

#### Asthma history

Previous severe exacerbation (e.g., intubation or ICU admission for asthma)  
Two or more hospitalizations for asthma in the past year  
Three or more ED visits for asthma in the past year  
Hospitalization or ED visit for asthma in the past month  
Using >2 canisters of SABA per month  
Difficulty perceiving asthma symptoms or severity of exacerbations  
Other risk factors: lack of a written asthma action plan, sensitivity to *Alternaria*

#### Social history

Low socioeconomic status or inner-city residence  
Illicit drug use  
Major psychosocial problems

#### Comorbidities

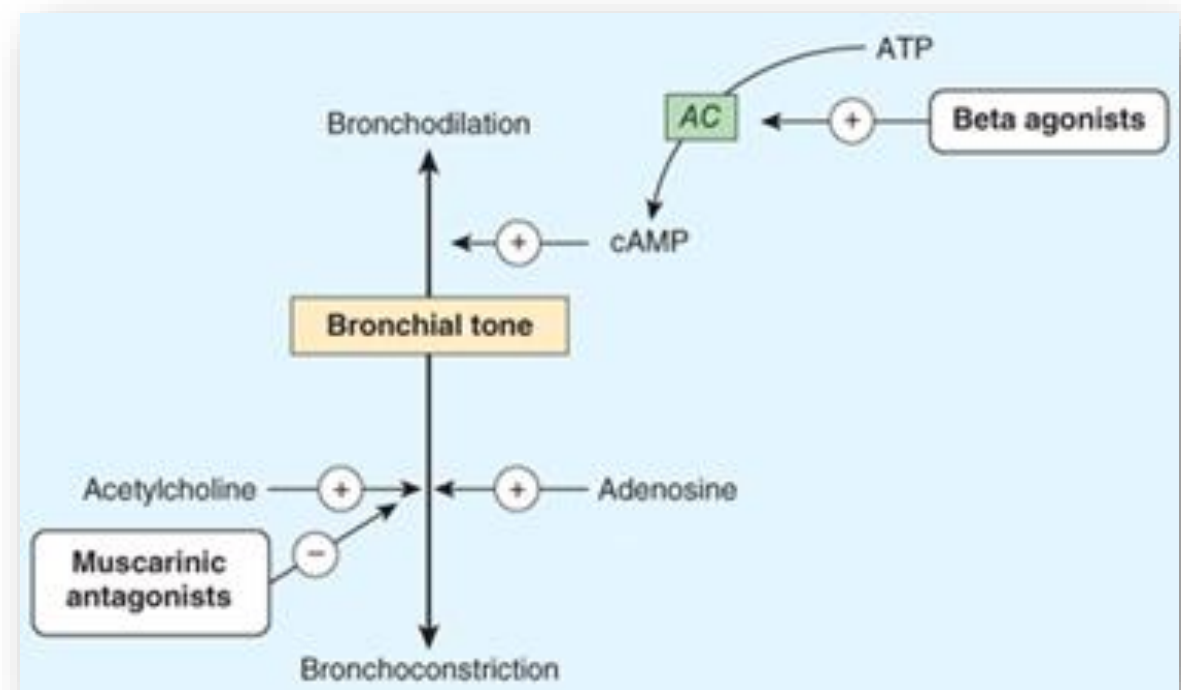
Cardiovascular disease  
Other chronic lung disease  
Chronic psychiatric disease

Key: ED, emergency department; ICU, intensive care unit; SABA, short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist

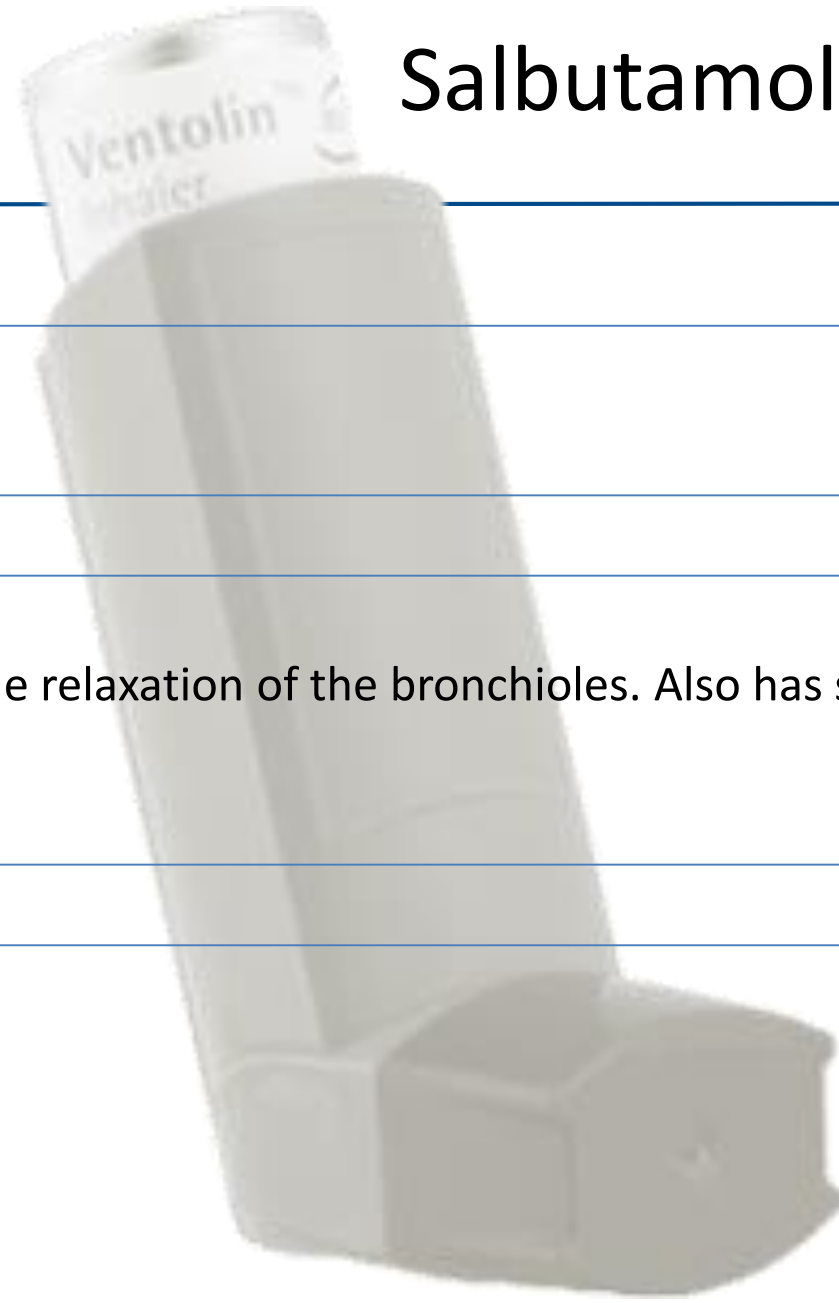
Sources: Abramson et al. 2001; Greenberger et al. 1993; Hardie et al. 2002; Kallenbach et al. 1993; Kikuchi et al. 1994; O'Hollaren et al. 1991; Rodrigo and Rodrigo 1993; Strunk and Mrazek 1986; Suissa et al. 1994



- Cornerstone of asthma management
- The most common adverse drug reaction of  $\beta$ -adrenergic drugs is skeletal muscle tremor



# Salbutamol (Ventolin)



## Classification

- Bronchodilator, sympathomimetic B-2 agonist

## Mechanism of Action

- Selective B-2 stimulation allows for smooth muscle relaxation of the bronchioles. Also has some B-1 effects causing an increase in HR

## Indications

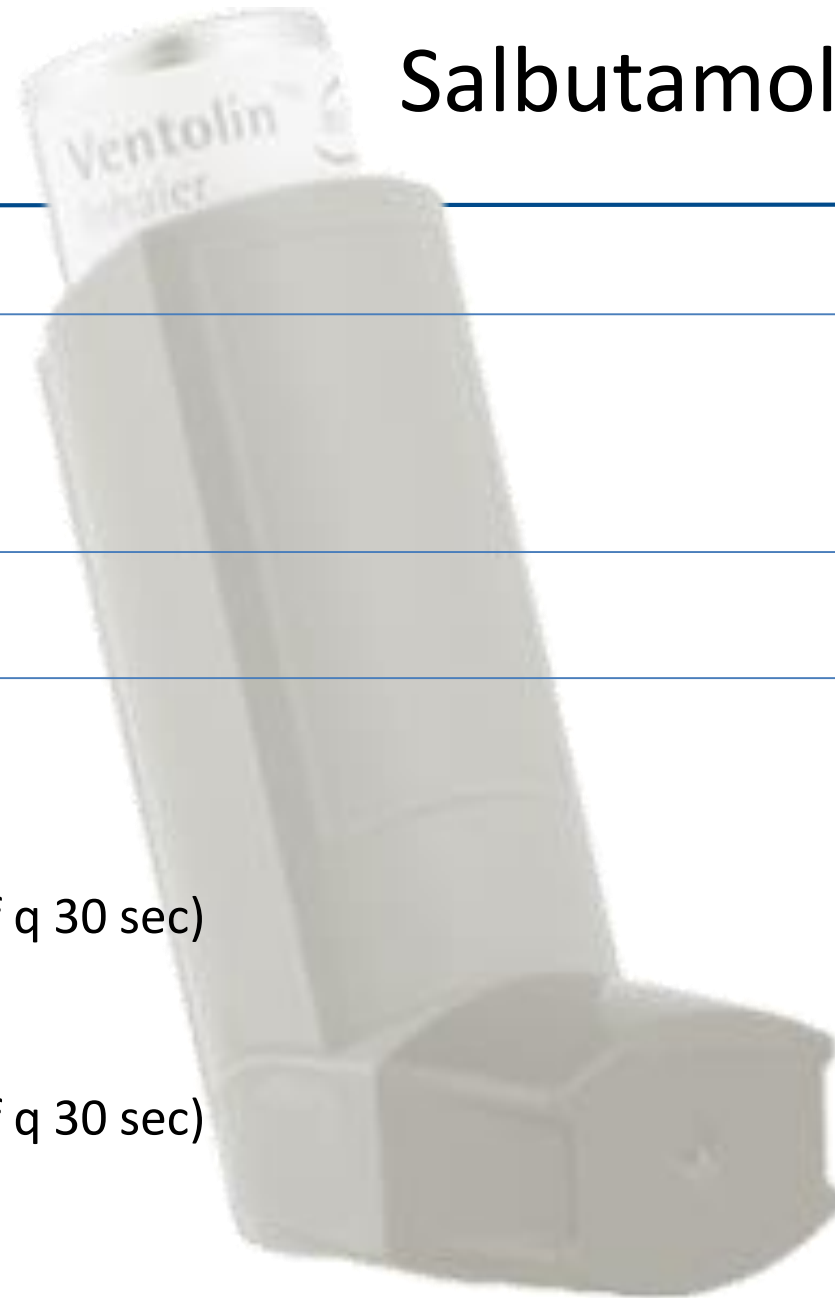
- Bronchoconstriction (wheeze) with SOB

## Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity
- Ischemic Chest Pain (Relative)

## Dosage

- Adults
  - 5.0 mg Aerosol
  - 400 – 600 mcg (4 - 6 puffs) via MDI (1 puff q 30 sec)
- Pediatric (10 – 30 kg)
  - 2.5 mg Aerosol
  - 200 – 300 mcg (2 - 3 puffs) via MDI (1 puff q 30 sec)
- Infant (< 10 kg)
  - 1.25 mg via Aerosol



- Anticholinergics:
  - Inhibit muscarinic cholinergic receptors and reduce intrinsic vagal tone of the airway.
  - Ipratropium bromide provides additive benefit to SABA in moderate-to-severe asthma exacerbations.
- Chronically - May be used as an alternative bronchodilator for patients who do not tolerate their salbutamol puffer
- Due to poor systemic absorption, ipratropium is ideal for inhalation.

## Classification

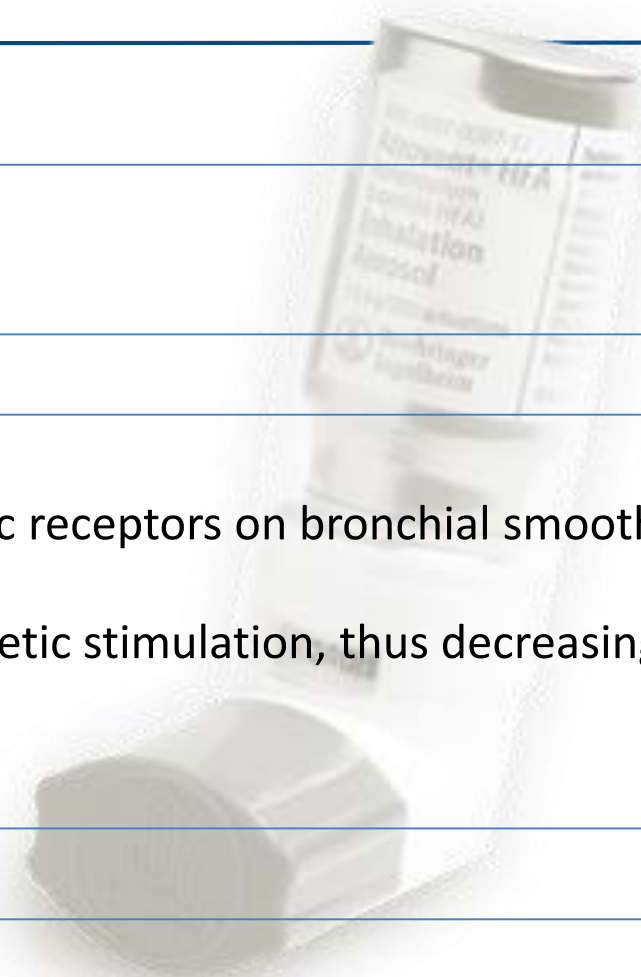
- Anticholinergic, parasympatholytic

## Mechanism of Action

- Causes bronchodilation by competitive inhibition of cholinergic receptors on bronchial smooth muscle
- Blocks the action of acetylcholine, which inhibits parasympathetic stimulation, thus decreasing bronchial secretions
- Dries respiratory tract secretions

## Indications

- Bronchial asthma
- Bronchospasm associated with COPD

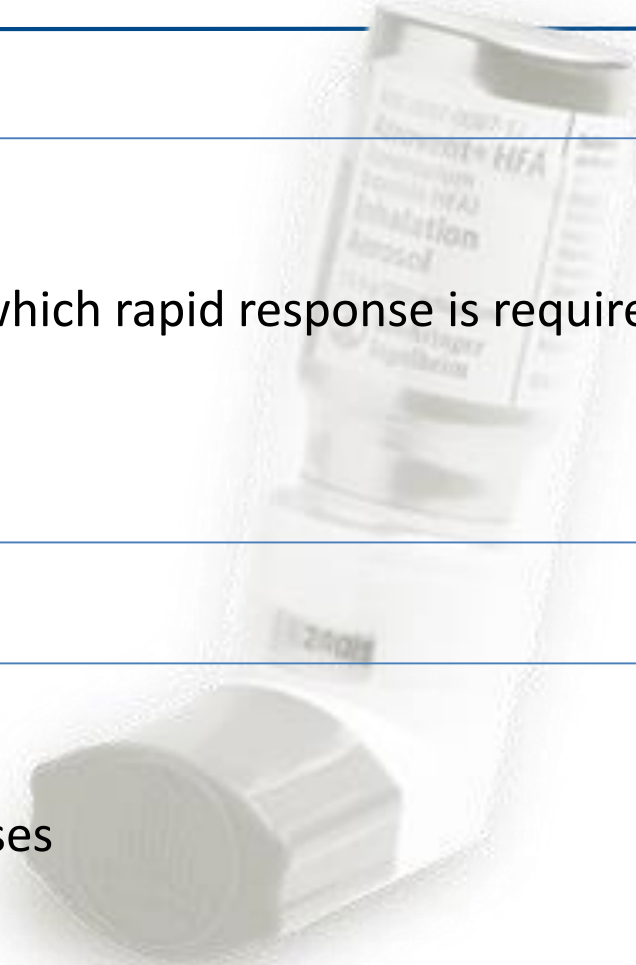


## Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity
- Is not indicated for acute treatment of bronchospasm for which rapid response is required
- Ischemic chest pain
- Acute narrow angle glaucoma

## Dosage

- Adult
  - 250-500 mcg mixed with Ventolin q 20 minutes x 3 doses
  - 2-4 puffs q 20 minutes x 3 doses
- Pediatric
  - 125 – 250 mcg mixed with Ventolin and/or NS to a minimum of 2 cc
  - 1-2 puffs



- “Relievers” vs “maintainers”

		CONTROLLERS				
Anti-Inflammatories		Combination Medications		Long-Acting Bronchodilators		
 <b>*FLOVENT® DISKUS®</b> Inhaler Device (Fluticasone propionate) Available in 50, 100, 250 & 500 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline		 <b>*ADVAIR® DISKUS®</b> Inhaler Device (Salmeterol, fluticasone propionate) Available in 20/100, 50/250 & 100/500 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline		 <b>*SERVENT® DISKUS®</b> Inhaler Device (Salmeterol, xhatastat) 50 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline		
 <b>*FLOVENT® HFA</b> (Fluticasone propionate) Available in 50, 125 & 250 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline		 <b>*ADVAIR® HFA</b> (Salmeterol, fluticasone propionate) Available in 25/125 & 25/250 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline		 <b>*SPIRIVA® HandiHaler®</b> Inhaler Device (Tiotropium bromide bromide hexahydrate) 18 mcg per inhalation Boehringer Ingelheim		
 <b>*PULMICORT® TURBUHALER®</b> (Budesonide) Available in 100, 200 & 400 mcg per inhalation AstraZeneca		 <b>*SYMBRINOR® TURBUHALER®</b> (Budesonide formoterol fumarate dihydrate) Available in 100/5 & 200/5 mcg per inhalation AstraZeneca		 <b>*COAXIS® TURBUHALER®</b> (Formoterol fumarate dihydrate) Available in 5 & 12 mcg per inhalation AstraZeneca		
 <b>*AEROBID®</b> (Ciclesonide) Available in 50 & 100 mcg per inhalation AstraZeneca		 <b>*QVAR®</b> (Beclomethasone dipropionate) Available in 50 & 100 mcg per inhalation 3M Pharmaceuticals				
<p>This is not a complete list of available agents.                      Please consult the CPS for others.</p>		<b>RELIEVERS (Short-Acting Bronchodilators)</b>				
		 <b>*VENTOLIN® HFA</b> (Salbutamol sulfate) 100 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline	 <b>*VENTOLIN® DISKUS®</b> (Salbutamol sulfate) 2.5 mcg per inhalation GlaxoSmithKline	 <b>*BRICANYL® TURBUHALER®</b> (Terbutaline sulfate) 6.5 mcg per inhalation AstraZeneca	 <b>*ATROVENT® HFA INHALATION AEROSOL</b> (Ipratropium bromide) 20 mcg per inhalation Boehringer Ingelheim	 <b>*ARCAINE® INHALATION AEROSOL</b> (Salbutamol sulfate) 100 mcg per inhalation 3M Pharmaceuticals

MDI

DPI



- Someone did a study on it
  - They are very expensive

Commercial versus home-made spacers in delivering bronchodilator therapy for acute therapy in children (Review)

Rodriguez-Martinez CE, Sossa M, Lozano JM



### Authors' conclusions

Overall, this review did not identify a statistically significant difference between these two methods for delivering bronchodilator therapy to children with acute asthma or lower airways obstruction attacks. Care should be taken in the interpretation and applicability of our results because of the small number of RCTs along with few events available meeting the criteria for inclusion in the review, absence of the primary outcome of interest and other clinically important outcomes in the majority of included studies. The possible need for a face-mask in younger children using home-made spacers should also be considered in practice.

Figure 21. Examples of VHCs and spacers

- No advantage in terms of relief between nebule, MDI, DPI
  - Advantage of pt not needing to coordinate breath with nebule
  - Paramedic advantage with nebulizer of freeing up hands

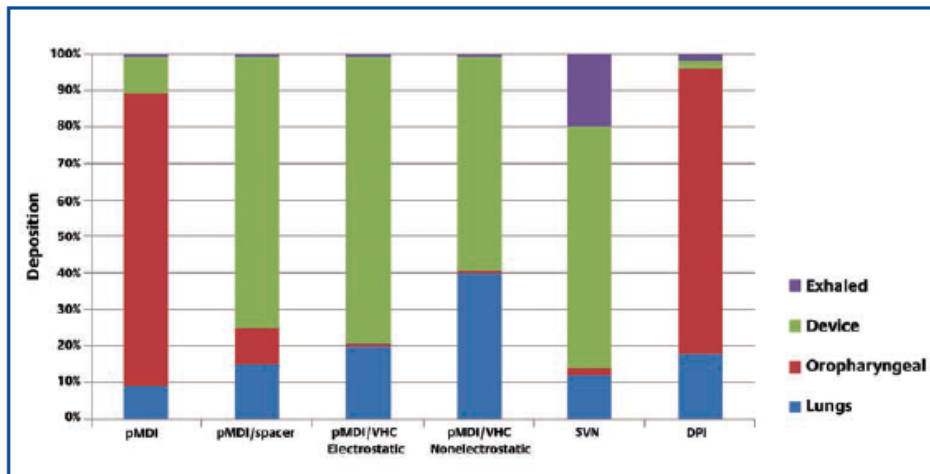


Figure 2. Drug deposition with common aerosol inhaler devices. Shown by color are the varying percentages of drug lung deposition and drug loss in the oropharynx, device, and exhaled breath.

pMDI = pressurized metered-dose inhaler; VHC = valved holding chamber;  
SVN = small-volume nebulizer; DPI = dry-powder inhaler  
(Modified, with permission, from Reference 1 and Reference 7)

*J Emerg Med.* 2011 Mar;40(3):247-55. doi: 10.1016/j.jemermed.2008.06.029. Epub 2008 Dec 11.

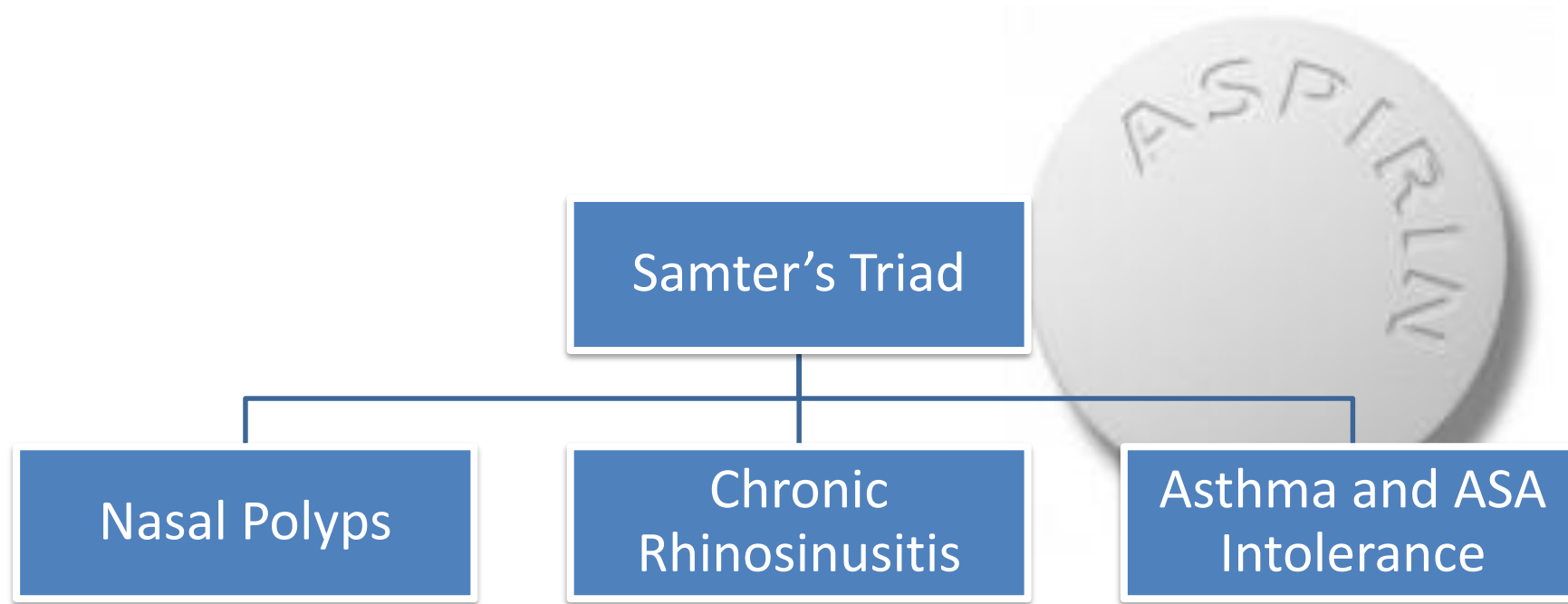
## Efficacy and cost comparisons of bronchodilator administration between metered dose inhalers with disposable spacers and nebulizers for acute asthma treatment.

Dhuper S<sup>1</sup>, Chandra A, Ahmed A, Bista S, Moghekar A, Verma R, Chong C, Shim C, Cohen H, Choksi S.

### Authors' conclusions

There is no evidence of superiority of nebulizer to MDI/spacer beta agonist delivery for emergency management of acute asthma in the inner-city adult population. MDI/spacer may be a more economical alternative to nebulizer delivery."

- Typically begins 20 minutes to 3 hours after ingestion
- Can include other NSAIDs



<b>TABLE 4. A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT OF COPD</b>		
	<b>Asthma</b>	<b>COPD</b>
<b>Age of onset</b>	Usually <40 years	Usually >40 years
<b>Smoking history</b>	Not causal	Usually >10 pack years
<b>Sputum production</b>	Infrequent	Often
<b>Allergies</b>	Often	Infrequent
<b>Disease course</b>	Stable (with exacerbations)	Progressive worsening (with exacerbations)
<b>Spirometry</b>	Often normalizes	May improve but never normalizes
<b>Clinical symptoms</b>	Intermittent and variable	Persistent

COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

*This information was originally published in Can Respir J 2007;14(suppl B):5B-32B.*

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **PNEUMONIA**

- Affects the respiratory membrane (alveoli)
- Three portals of entry to lower respiratory tract
  - They may be inhaled as aerosolized particles
    - Impaired mucociliary clearance
  - They may enter the lung via the bloodstream
  - Aspiration of oropharyngeal contents, a common occurrence in both healthy and ill persons during sleep
    - Major mechanism by which pulmonary pathogens gain access to the normally sterile lower airways and alveoli.

- Community acquired pneumonia (CAP)
  - Not hospitalized in last 14 days
- Hospital acquired pneumonia (HAP)
  - pneumonia > 48 hours after admission, which was not incubating at the time of admission
- HAP is the second most common nosocomial infection with a crude overall rate of 6.1 per 1000 discharges
- Ventilator acquired pneumonia (VAP)
  - pneumonia that arises > 48-72 hours after endotracheal intubation
    - -HAP and VAP together are the second most common cause of hospital-acquired infection and have been associated with a higher mortality than any other
- Different causative pathogens
  - Question on recent abx use
  - Less likely to be susceptible
  - Resistance



- Bacterial pneumonia results in an intense inflammatory response which often leads to a productive cough
- HIV patients (CD4 <200)
  - Pneumocystis jiroveci (PJP) pneumonia
    - Fungus
    - Suspect in HIV patients with respiratory symptoms

## Etiology (CAP)

Streptococcus pneumoniae

Mycoplasma pneumoniae

Haemophilus influenzae

Chlamydomphila pneumoniae

Respiratory Viruses

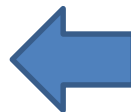
- Hallmark clinical features of CAP include:
  - Cough
  - Fever
  - Pleuritic chest pain
  - Dyspnea
  - Sputum production
    - Mucopurulent sputum production is most frequently found in association with bacterial pneumonia, while scant or watery sputum production is more suggestive of an atypical pathogen
- Not always so easy
  - May be preceded by an upper respiratory tract viral infection
- Other symptoms
  - Weakness, joint pain, rash

- Conduct a physical examination
  - Lung sounds
    - A patient with acute pneumonia may demonstrate evidence of alveolar fluid on auscultation as crackles, may demonstrate consolidation as bronchial breath sounds, and may demonstrate pleural effusion (dullness and decreased breath sounds), or bronchial congestion (rhonchi and wheezing)
- The diagnosis of pneumonia is based on the presence of select hallmark features (previous slide) and is supported by imaging of the lung, usually by chest radiography.
- Physical examination to detect rales or bronchial breath sounds is an important component of the evaluation but is less sensitive and specific than chest radiographs

- Goals
  - Maintain the airway
  - Support breathing
  - High-flow oxygen or assisted ventilation as indicated
- Treat symptoms and sequelae of the disease
  - Beta agonists
  - Prevent progression to sepsis
    - Monitor vital signs
    - Establish IV access
    - Avoid fluid overload (Caution in elderly and those with renal failure)
- Definitive therapy
  - Antibiotics if fungal or bacterial

**TABLE 3**  
**Microbiological causes of hospital-acquired pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia (level A-2)**

Microbiological diagnosis	Frequency of isolation (% of patients)
Gram-negative bacilli	35–80
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	
<i>Klebsiella</i> species	
<i>Enterobacter</i> species	
<i>Proteus</i> species	
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	
<i>Acinetobacter</i> species	
<i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i>	
Gram-positive cocci	9–46
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	
<i>Streptococcus</i> species	
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MSSA and MRSA)	
Polymicrobial	9–80
Anaerobes	0–54
Blood culture positive	0–40
No growth	2–54



MSSA Methicillin-susceptible *S aureus*, MRSA Methicillin-resistant *S aureus*.  
 Adapted from references 11,44-91

- "But I would like to sound a note of warning ... It is not difficult to make microbes resistant to penicillin in the laboratory by exposing them to concentrations not sufficient to kill them and the same thing has occasionally happened in the body."

Sir Alexander Fleming, 1945

- It is estimated that up to 50% of antimicrobial use in hospitals is unnecessary

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **SIRS**

- Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome
  - HR > 90, RR > 20, Temp > 38°C or < 36°C
  - Sepsis if determination that SIRS caused by pathogen
- Severe sepsis
  - Sign of hypoperfusion
    - Confusion
- Septic shock
  - Hypotension
    - Refractory to bolus
- Recognize and treat



- Patient will need antibiotics
  - Common antibiotics you will encounter
    - NS guidelines

Antibiotic	Regimen for CAP in Outpatient Adults	Cost per day
<b>MONOTHERAPY</b> previously healthy, low risk patient and no risk factors for drug-resistant <i>S pneumoniae</i>		
Doxycycline	200 mg for 1 <sup>st</sup> dose then 100 mg BID	\$1.17
Clarithromycin	500 mg BID	\$3.26
<b>DUAL THERAPY</b> presence of comorbidities <sup>a</sup> , antimicrobial use within the previous 3 months, or other risk factors for drug-resistant <i>S. pneumoniae</i> i.e. exposure to children in day care		
Choose one of the above drugs <sup>b</sup> and add a 2 <sup>nd</sup> drug from below. If an antibiotic has been used in previous 3 months ensure a different class of drug is used.		
Amoxicillin	1.0 g TID	\$2.06
Cefuroxime	500 mg BID	\$2.90
<b>TREATMENT FAILURE</b> (worsening after 72 hours or no response after completion of therapy) and if there is no fluoroquinolone use in previous 3 months		
Levofloxacin	750 mg OD	\$6.55
Moxifloxacin	400 mg OD	\$6.45
Duration of therapy is usually 7 to 10 days for all regimens except levofloxacin (5 days).		

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

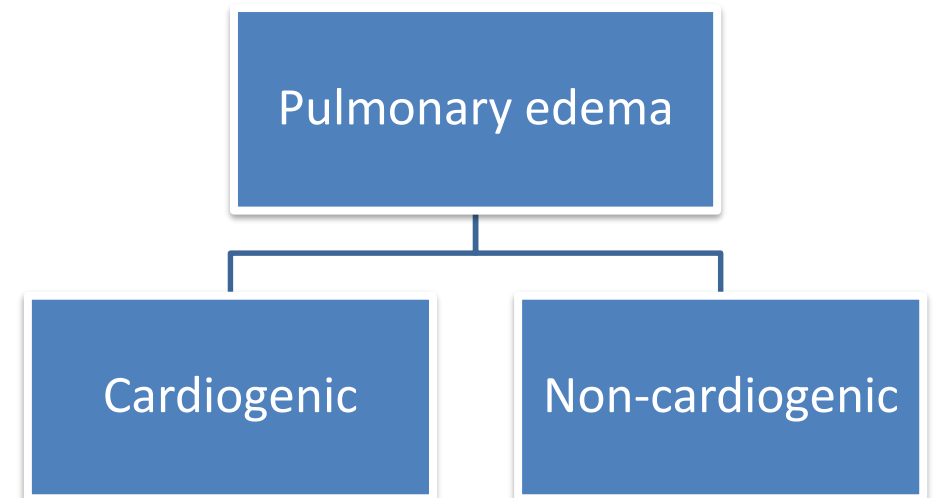
# **BRONCHITIS**

- Acute inflammation of the trachea and bronchi
- Generally Viral and self-limiting
  - Influenza, parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, coronavirus, adenovirus, rhinovirus, and human metapneumovirus,
  - Although majority of patients are given abx
- Pneumonia, asthma, other causes ruled out
- Cough 1-3 weeks, can be productive
  - Often afebrile
- Malaise
- Generally do not respond to beta agonists (may reduce cough), although you will see many patients with this condition given puffers

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **PULMONARY EDEMA**

- Manifestation of another condition
  - Fluid ends up in pulmonary extravascular compartment
- Fluid accumulates in the interstitial space because of imbalance between hydrostatic and osmotic forces
  - Eventually can end up in alveoli
- Acute or Chronic
  - Acute HF vs CHF



## Cardiogenic

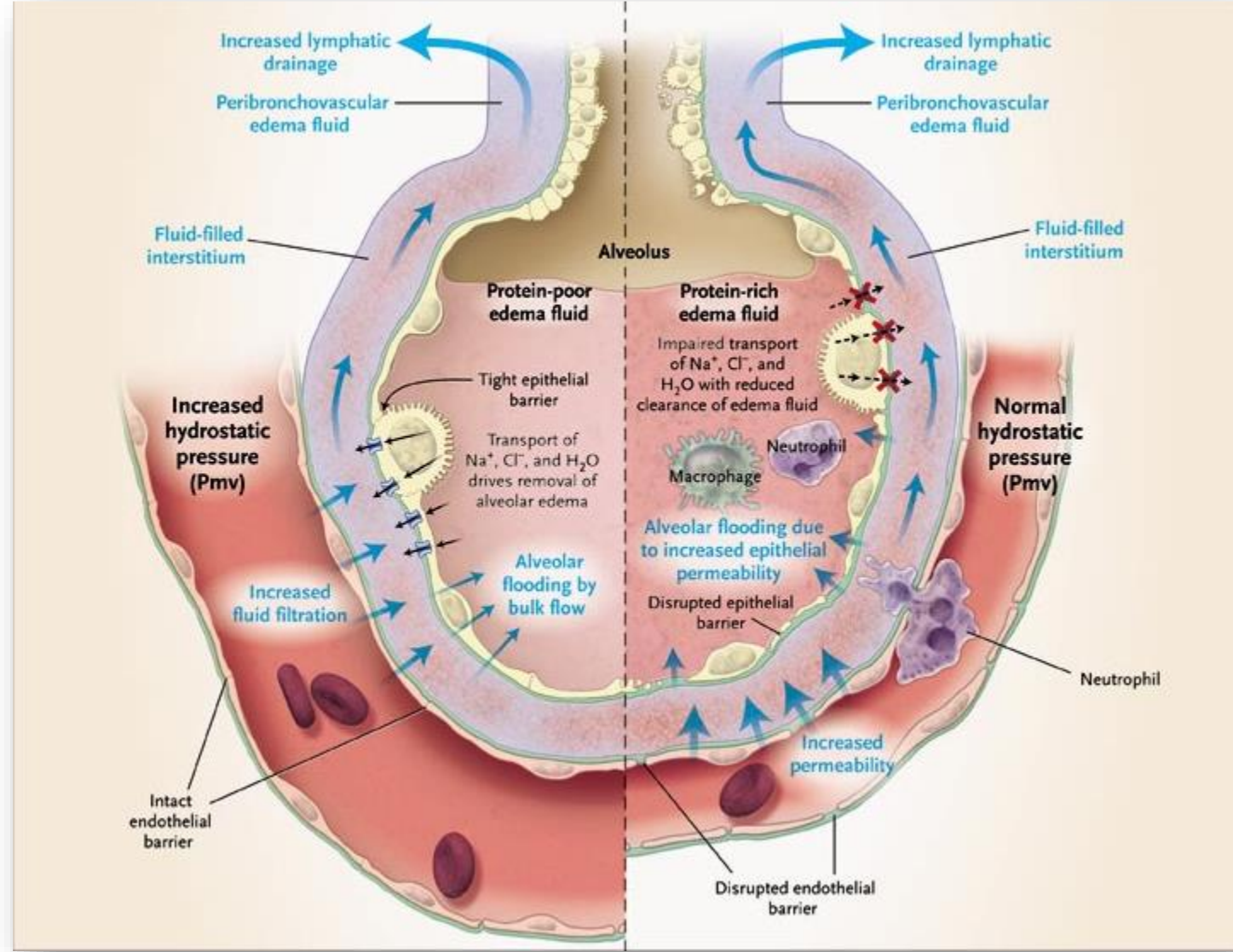
- High pulmonary capillary pressure due to left sided heart failure
- Early increases in pulmonary venous pressure may be asymptomatic
  - Mild cough
  - Non-productive
- Consider patient not tolerating chronic a-fib
  - May need rhythm as opposed to standard rate adjustment
- Consider MI

## Non-Cardiogenic

- Damage occurs to the pulmonary capillary lining
  - Subsequent leakage of proteins and other large molecules.
  - Fluid follows the protein as oncotic forces are shifted from the vessel to the surrounding lung tissue.
- Surfactant dysfunction
- Vasoconstriction and intrapulmonary shunt

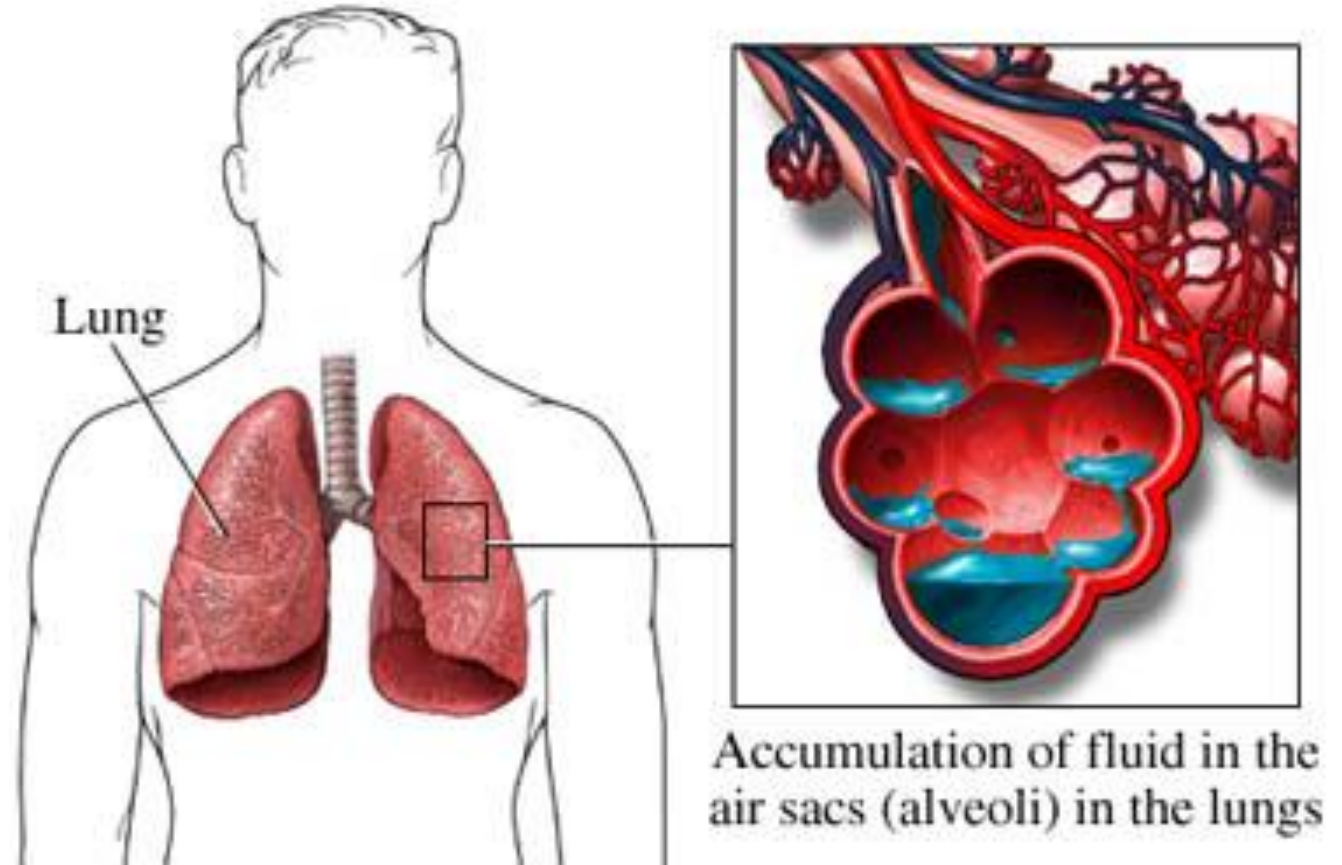


Cardiogenic



Non-Cardiogenic

- S/S
  - Nocturnal dyspnea
    - “pillow count”
  - Peripheral edema
  - Tachypnea
  - Tachycardia
  - Crackles on auscultation
  - Possible ectopy on 4 lead



- Stage I: Interstitial pulmonary edema is present. Patients often become tachypneic as pulmonary compliance begins to decrease. “Cuffing” seen on X-ray.
- Stage II: Fluid fills the interstitium and begins to fill the alveoli. Near-normal gas exchange may be preserved. Pt may be asymptomatic.

- Stage III: Many alveoli become completely flooded and no longer contain atmospheric gas.
  - Flooding is most prominent in dependent areas of the lungs.
  - Blood flow through the capillaries of flooded alveoli results in a large increase in intrapulmonary shunting. Hypoxemia and hypocapnia (the latter due to dyspnea and hyperventilation) are characteristic.
- Stage IV: Marked alveolar flooding spills into the airways as froth. Gas exchange is compromised due to both shunting and airway obstruction, leading to progressive hypercapnia and severe hypoxemia.

# Pulmonary Edema Management

## Treatments

- Oxygen
- Nitrates
- Mechanical ventilation
  - CPAP
  - BVM

## Additional Treatments (ACP)

- Morphine
- Diuretics
- Inotropes
- Mechanical ventilation
  - Intubation
    - PEEP

## Classification

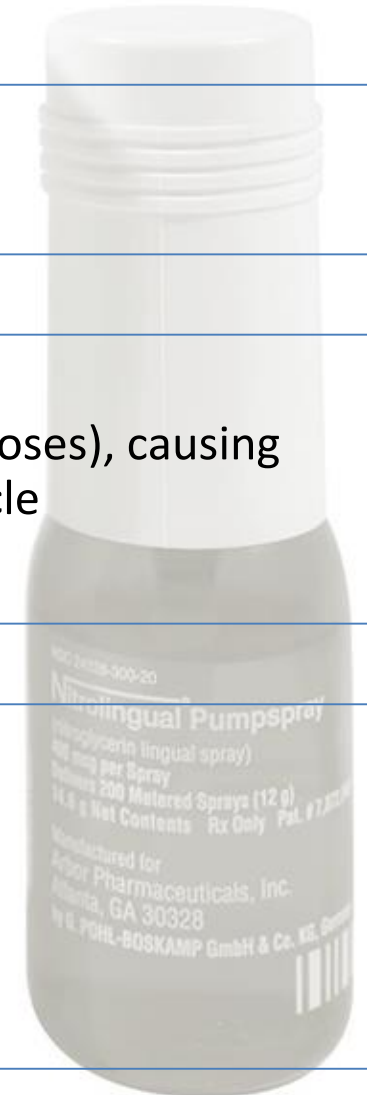
- Anti-angina, vascular smooth muscle relaxer, vasodilator

## Mechanism of Action

- Relaxes vascular smooth muscle, there by dilating the veins and arterioles (at higher doses), causing blood pooling, which reduces the preload thus decreasing workload of the heart muscle
- Reduces left ventricular systolic wall tension, which decreases afterload

## Indications

- Possible ischemia due to ACS:
  - Unstable angina
  - AMI
- Pulmonary edema/CHF





## Contraindications

- Hypotension (< 90 mmHg)
- Severe bradycardia/tachycardia (< 50 or > 150 bpm)
- Increase ICP or intracranial hemorrhage
- Patients taking erectile dysfunction medications
  - Viagra within 24 hours
  - Cialis, Levitra, Staxyn within 36 hours

## Dosage

- 0.4 mg SL q 3 - 5 min



Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **ARDS**

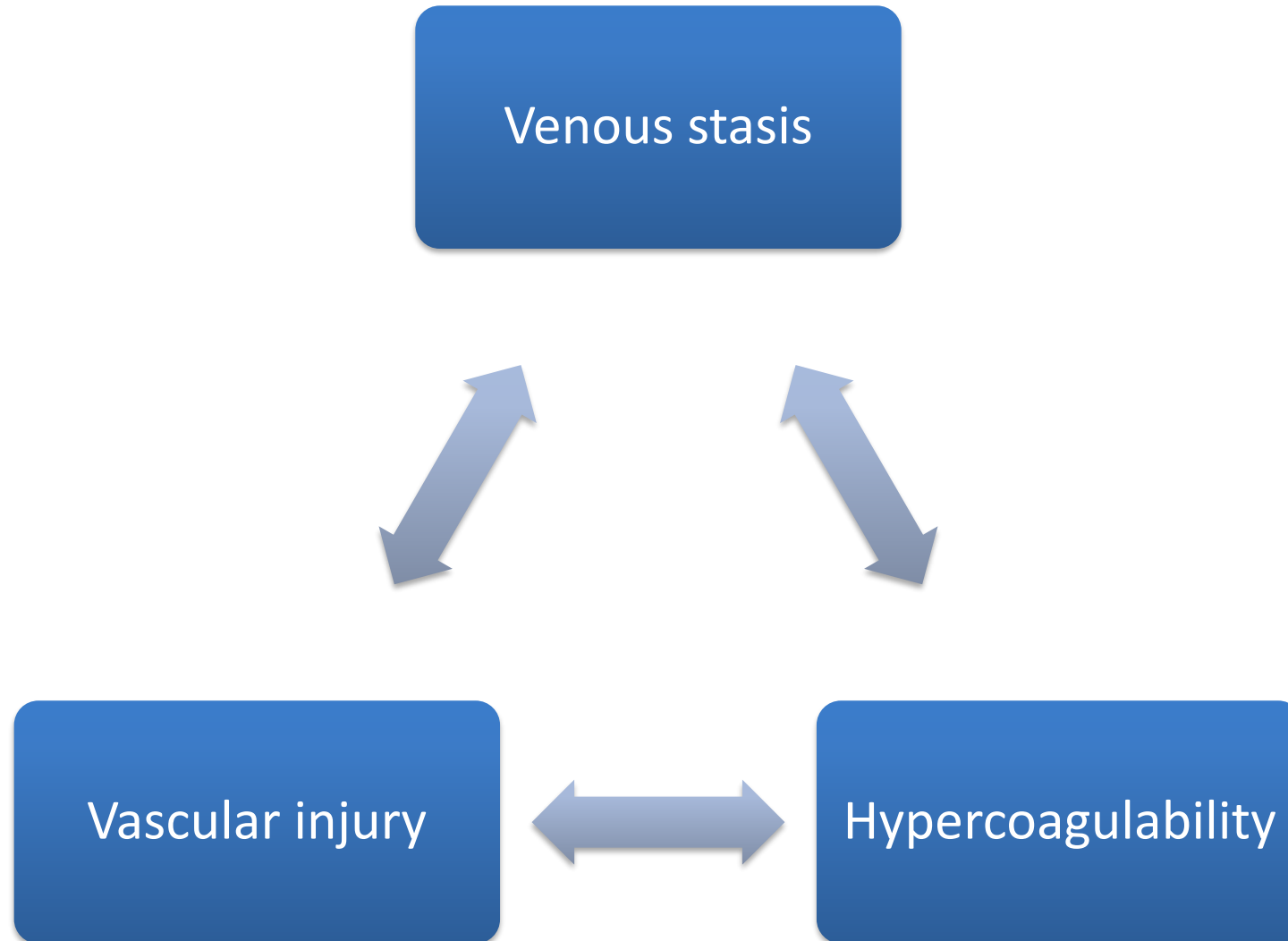
# Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)

- According to the consensus Berlin Definition
  - ARDS is characterized by acute onset (< 7 days) of bilateral radiographic pulmonary infiltrates and respiratory failure not fully explained by heart failure or volume overload
- American European Consensus Conference
  - Acute onset, bilateral pulmonary infiltrates on chest radiograph consistent with pulmonary edema, poor systemic oxygenation, and the absence of evidence of left atrial hypertension
- “Final common pathway” from previous insult
- Hypoxia resistant to oxygen therapy
- Most patients require ventilator support
- Mortality up to 40%

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

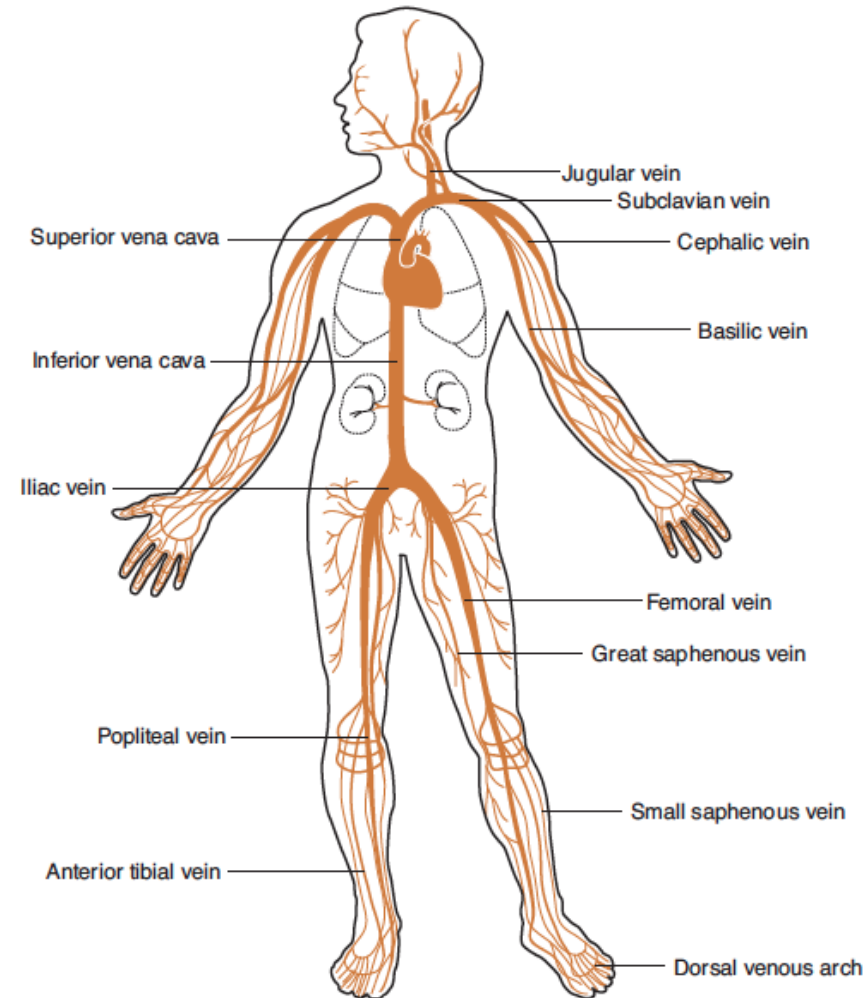
# **PULMONARY EMBOLISM**

- Pulmonary Embolism and Deep Vein Thrombosis
  - Blood clots that develop in the leg and can travel to the lung
- Most common cause of preventable death in hospitalized patients
  - However many stable DVT patients can be treated as outpatient
- Mortality at 3 months as high as 15%
  - African Canadians at higher risk
- Can be a cause of sudden cardiac arrest
- Underdiagnosed condition
  - Anticoagulation prophylaxis is underused
  - Many diagnosis occur postmortem

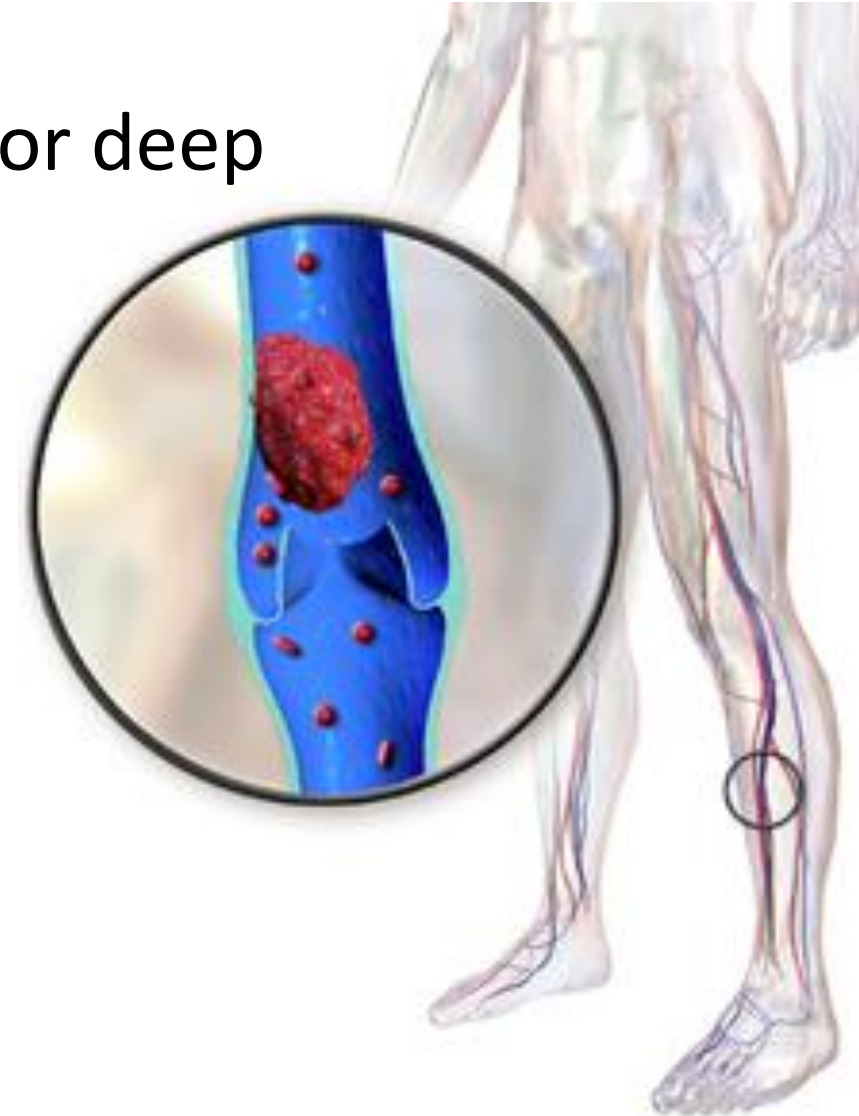


Venostasis	Vascular Injury	Hypercoagulability
Surgery	Vascular catheters	Protein C deficiency
Paralysis	Trauma	Protein S deficiency
Cast	Artificial valves	Pregnancy
Immobility		Oral contraceptives
Varicose veins		Estrogens
Obesity		Malignancy





- Development of blood clot in 1 of the major deep veins in the leg, thigh, pelvis or abdomen
- Definitions
  - Thrombus
  - Embolus
  - Thrombosis
    - More to follow in cardiology





- Upper and lower leg symptoms not to be taken lightly!
- Potential symptoms
  - Swelling, tenderness, erythema, asymmetric swelling
  - 2005 meta-analysis of cohort studies showed only positive predictor of DVT was calf diameter
- Wells' Score
- Fever and chills suggest cellulitis

Clinical Feature	Points*
Active cancer (treatment within 6 mo, or palliation)	1
Paralysis, paresis, or immobilization of lower extremity	1
Bedridden for >3 d because of surgery (within 12 wk)	1
Localized tenderness along distribution of deep veins	1
Entire leg swollen	1
Unilateral calf swelling of >3 cm (below tibial tuberosity)	1
Unilateral pitting edema	1
Collateral superficial veins	1
Alternative diagnosis as likely as or more likely than deep venous thrombosis	-2
Prior history of DVT or PE <sup>†</sup>	1

- Muscle strain, tear, or twisting injury to the leg
- Leg swelling in a paralyzed limb
- Lymphangitis or lymph obstruction
- Drug induced edema
- Popliteal (Baker's) cyst
- Cellulitis
- Knee abnormality
- Unknown
  - Many cases are not DVT

- D-dimer and clinical risk scores
  - D-dimer evaluates fibrin degradation products
  - Useful in excluding people with low clinical suspicion
- Compression Ultrasound
  - When pressure is applied to the proximal veins with an ultrasound probe, the veins should fully compress
- Venography
  - Gold standard but difficult to obtain
  - Only used when noninvasive tests unreliable or not available
  - Contrast can cause clots

- Patients are treated with blood thinners
  - Warfarin and low molecular weight heparins (enoxaparin, dalteparin)
- First DVT results in a minimum of 3 months of treatment
- Caution – bleeding risk



- Warfarin
  - PO medication
  - Inhibits vitamin K dependent clotting factors
    - 1, 2, 9, 7 of 13 clotting factors
  - Very narrow therapeutic index
  - INR determines therapy
  - Older but still relevant due to no CI in pts with renal compromise
  - Vitamin K is the antidote
- Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH)
  - injectable
  - Inactivate factor 10
  - CI in patients with creatinine clearance < 30ml/min
  - Weak antidote (protamine)

- Pathophysiology
  - Obstruction of a pulmonary artery
    - Emboli may be of air, thrombus, fat, or amniotic fluid
    - Foreign bodies may also cause an embolus
  - DVT most common cause
- Diagnosis
  - Massive PE
    - Beside echocardiography
  - Stable patients
    - D-Dimer
    - Spiral CT
    - V/Q scan
    - Pulmonary arteriogram

- Clinical suspicion and detection are critical
  - You do not have the tools to diagnose but your thorough knowledge and assessment skills should lead you to strong hypothesis
- Can range from nothing to sudden cardiac arrest
  - Dyspnea without adventitious lung sounds, abnormal ECG
  - Pleuritic chest pain
- Definitive therapy is use of anticoagulants in DVT

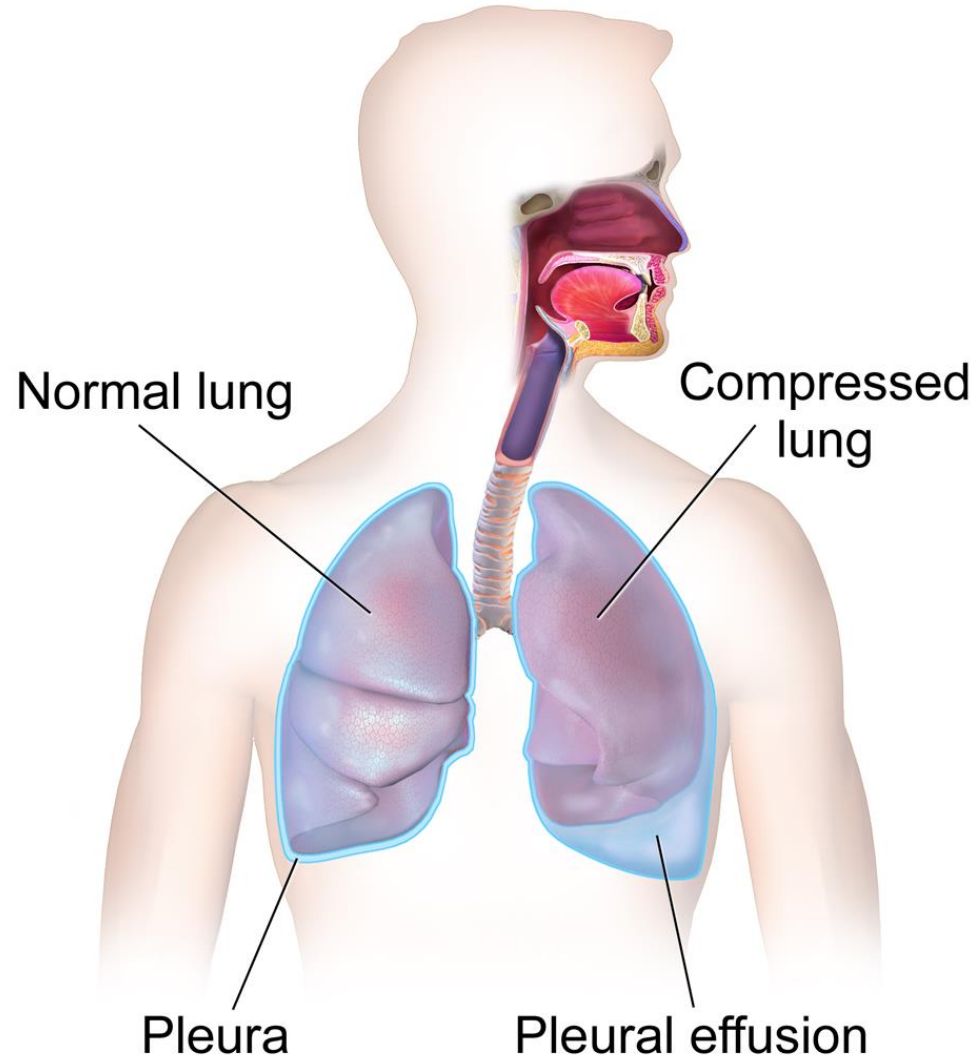
- Focused history and physical exam
- SAMPLE and OPQRST History
  - Presence of risk factors
  - Sudden onset of unexplained dyspnea
  - Cough
  - Chest pain
  - Hemoptysis (coughing blood up) is a very late and rare sign
- Circulatory collapse: hypotension, syncope, coma
- Physical Exam
  - Signs of heart failure, including JVD and hypotension
  - Warm, swollen extremities (DVT)

## Management

- Maintain the airway
- Support breathing
  - High-flow oxygen or assist ventilations as indicated
  - Intubation may be indicated
- Establish IV access
- Monitor vital signs closely
- Transport to appropriate facility
  - Use of thrombolytics in PE is controversial in hospital

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **PLEURAL EFFUSION**



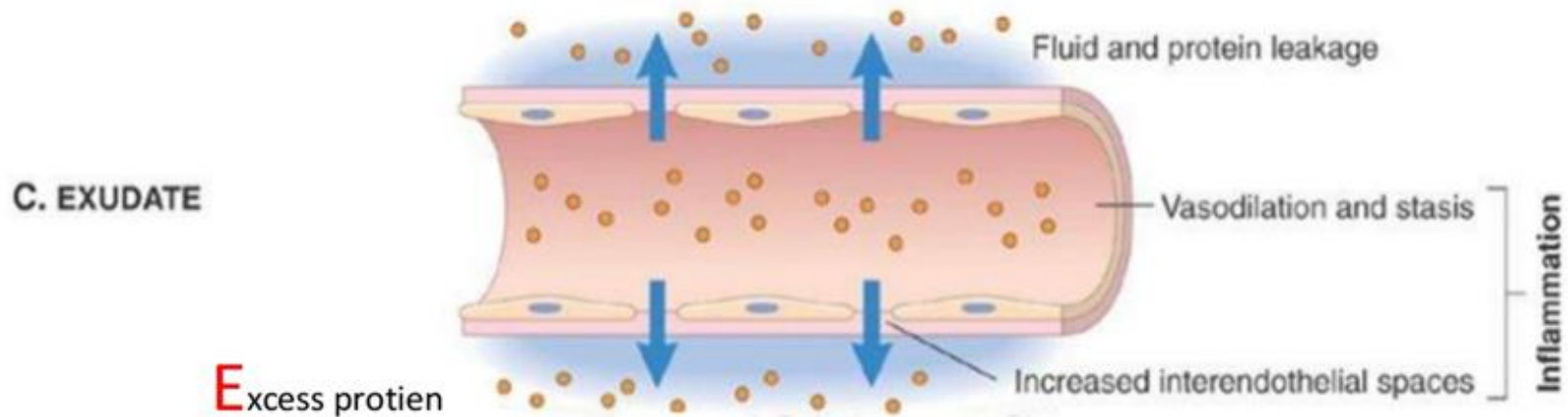
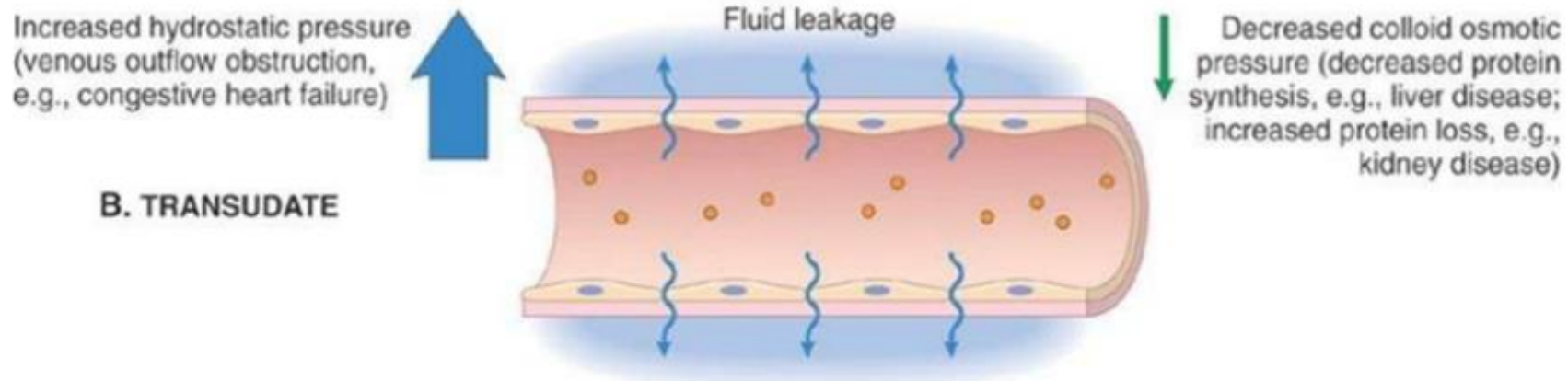
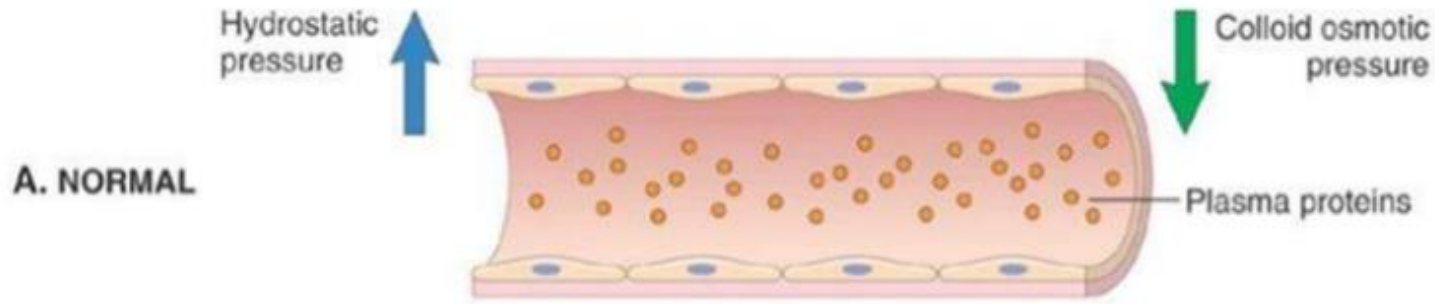
- Results from fluid accumulating in the potential space between the visceral and parietal pleura (influx of fluid exceeds the efflux of fluid)





- Altered pleural membrane permeability
- Decreased intravascular oncotic pressure
- Increased capillary hydrostatic pressure
- Lymphatic obstruction
- Abnormal sites of entry

- CHF
- Bacterial infection (pneumonia)
- Pulmonary embolism
- Malignancy
- TB



## Assessment

- Often asymptomatic initially
- Dyspnea
  - Deep inspiration may cause cough and increase in pain
  - Degree of SOB does not always correlate to size of effusion
- Chest pain
  - Due to inflammation
  - Most often shooting or stabbing
- Fever may be present
- Hemoptysis

## Treatment

- Treat the hypoxia
- Most treatments require hospital
  - Thoracentesis
  - Chest tube insertion
  - Treatment of underlying conditions

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **SARS**

# Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

- Caused by a novel coronavirus and was first detected in 2003
  - Spread by droplets, however there are cases where respiratory transmission was likely
  - The virus is shed in stools but the role of fecal–oral transmission is unknown.
  - Take ABSOLUTE full precautions for airborne transmission
  - Inform receiving facility
- Symptoms generally begin a week after contact

# Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

## Signs and Symptoms

- Fever
- Chills
- Rigors
- Malaise
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath
- Respiratory crackles

## Important Points

- Pneumonia begins in 8-10 days
- 20% of patients develop ARDS
  - Anticipate mechanical ventilation
- Many treatments attempted
  - Steroids, antivirals, interferon
  - Efficacy questionable



Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **PNEUMOTHORAX**

# Spontaneous Pneumothorax

- Occurs in absence of trauma
- Risk factors
  - Rare but high recurrence rate
  - More males than females (5:1)
  - Tall, thin stature
  - Between 20 and 40 years
  - COPD (ruptured bleb)



- Pathophysiology
  - Disease of ventilation
  - Pneumothorax occupying 15 - 20% of chest cavity generally well tolerated
- Assessment
  - Presence of risk factors
  - Rapid onset of symptoms
  - Sharp, pleuritic chest or shoulder pain
  - Often precipitated by coughing or lifting
  - JVD

## Management

- Maintain the airway
- Support breathing
- Monitor for tension pneumothorax
  - Tracheal deviation away from the affected side
- Definitive therapy
  - Needle decompression (ACP)
  - Chest tube (CCP or hospital)

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **OTHER CAUSES**

## Pathophysiology

- Traumatic/atraumatic brain injury
- Tumours
- Drugs
- Degenerative motor neuron disease
  - Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
    - Lou Gehrig's

## Assessment

- Evaluate potentially treatable causes
  - Narcotic drug overdose
  - CNS trauma.
- Carefully evaluate breathing pattern.

- Pathophysiology
  - PNS problems affecting respiratory function
    - Trauma
    - Polio
    - Myasthenia gravis
    - Guillain Barre Syndrome
    - Viral infections
    - Tumours
    - ALS



- Assessment
  - Rule out traumatic injury, and assess for numbness, pain, or signs of PNS dysfunction.
- Management
  - Assess ABC
  - Determine pt and families wishes
  - Manage AW as appropriate, including suction

Pathophysiology and Respiratory Disorders

# **PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS**

- Stages of Respiratory Compromise
  - Respiratory distress
  - Respiratory failure
  - Respiratory arrest

- Normal mental status
  - Deteriorating to irritability or anxiety
- Cyanosis
  - that improves with supplemental oxygen
- Good muscle tone
- Weak cry
- Grunting
- Tachypnea
- Tachycardia
- Retractions
- Head bobbing
- Nasal flaring (in infants)



## Definition

- Develops when the rate of gas exchange between the atmosphere and the blood is unable to match the body's metabolic demands

## Classifications

- Type 1 (Hypoxemic)
  - $PO_2 < 50$  mmHg on room air. Usually seen in patients with acute pulmonary edema or acute lung injury.
- Type 2 (Hypercapnic/ Ventilatory)
  - $PCO_2 > 50$  mmHg (if not a chronic  $CO_2$  retainer). This is usually seen in patients with an increased work of breathing due to airflow obstruction or decreased respiratory system compliance, with decreased respiratory muscle power due to neuromuscular disease, or with central respiratory failure and decreased respiratory drive.
- Type 3 (Peri-operative)
  - Atelectasis being the most common cause post anesthesia
- Type 4 (Shock)
  - Secondary to cardiovascular instability.

- Presentation
  - Tachypnea later deteriorating to bradypnea
  - Retractions later deteriorating to agonal respirations
  - Poor muscle tone
  - Tachycardia later deteriorating to bradycardia
  - Central cyanosis

- Unresponsiveness deteriorating to coma
- Bradypnea deteriorating to apnea
- Absent chest wall motion
- Bradycardia deteriorating to asystole
- Profound cyanosis



## Management

- Establish an airway
- Oxygen therapy
- Ventilation with BVM
- Airway adjunct
- Consider gastric decompression
- Consider needle decompression

- Upper airway distress
  - Croup
  - Epiglottitis
  - Foreign body aspiration
- Lower airway distress
  - Asthma
  - Bronchiolitis
  - Pneumonia
  - Foreign body lower airway obstruction

## Signs and Symptoms

- Slow onset (12 – 72 hrs)
- Low grade fever (38°C - 39°C)
- Inflammation in the nasal cavity and around the eyes
- Narrowing of the larynx
- Stridor (mild)
- Tachypnea
- Retractions
- Barking cough
- Hoarse voice



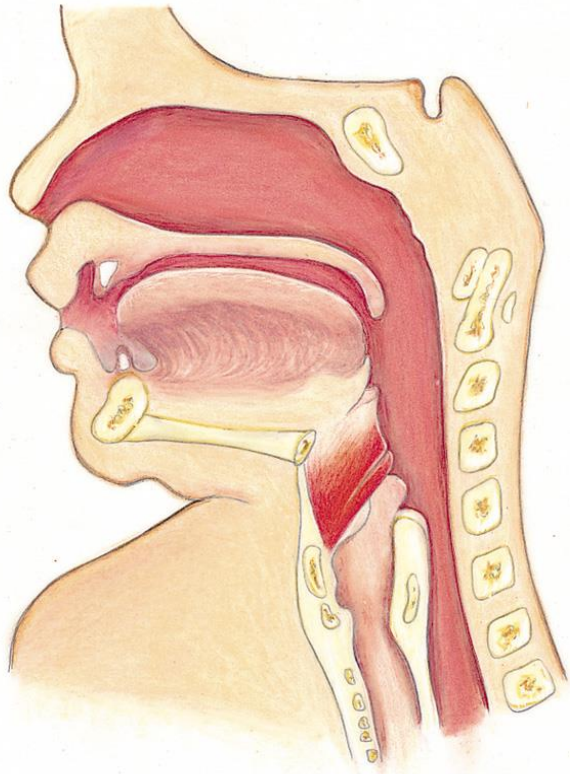
## Signs and Symptoms

- Rapid onset
- Fever ( $>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Stridor (moderate to severe)
- Tachypnea
- Retractions
- No Barking cough
- **Drooling** (difficulty swallowing)
- Difficulty speaking

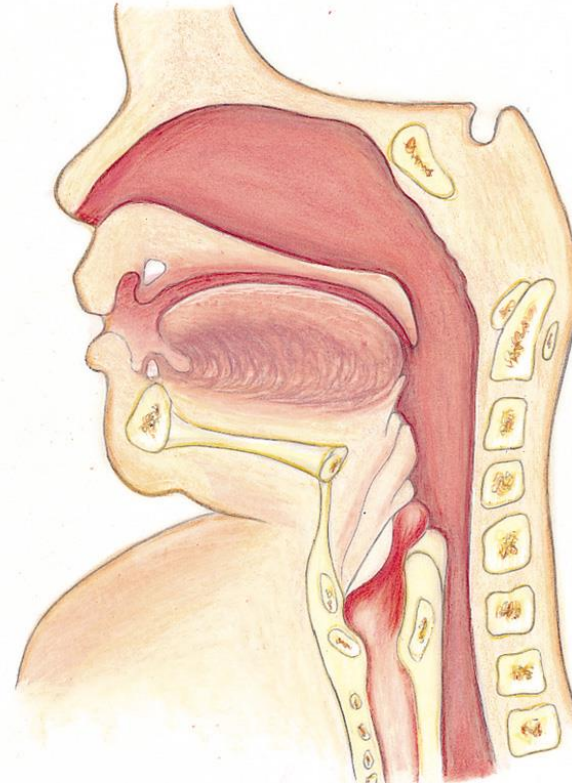




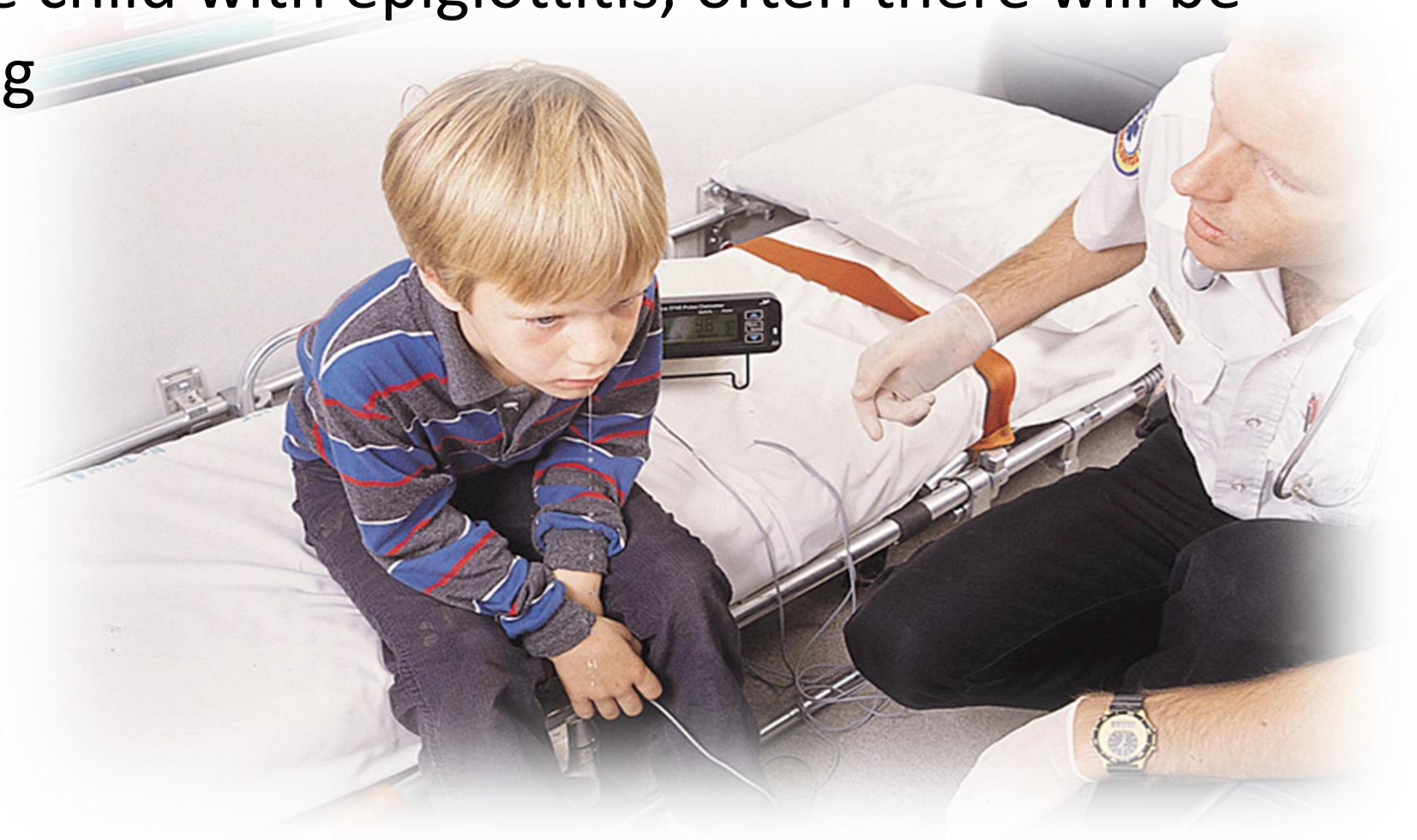
- Epiglottitis



- Croup



- Positioning of the child with epiglottitis, often there will be excessive drooling





A child with epiglottitis should be administered humidified oxygen and transported in a comfortable position

