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# Differential Diagnoses In Chest Disease

An Incomplete List

In Slide Show mode, to advance slides, press spacebar  
or click left mouse button

# How to Use This File And How Not to Use It

- Use the bookmarks on the left as cues for the differentials
- Try to recite the differential without looking
- Then click on the bookmark for the answers
- The file can be used like “flashcards”
- **These lists are not meant to be all-inclusive so please do not consider them as such. If you wish all-inclusive lists of differentials, consult the appropriate textbooks**

# **Acute Alveolar infiltrate**

- 1. Pulmonary edema**
- 2. Pneumonia**
- 3. Aspiration**
- 4. Hemorrhage**

# Anterior Mediastinal Masses

1. Thymoma
2. Teratoma
3. Substernal thyroid
4. Lymphoma

# Opacified Hemithorax

1. Atelectasis
2. Pleural effusion
3. Pneumonia
4. Post-pneumonectomy

# **Pneumomediastinum**

- 1. Ruptured esophagus**
- 2. Ruptured trachea/bronchus**
- 3. Iatrogenic**
- 4. Asthma**
- 5. Pneumoperitoneum**

# Chronic Alveolar Disease

1. Alveolar cell ca
2. Alveolar sarcoid
3. Lymphoma
4. Alveolar proteinosis

# Large Cavitory Lung Lesions

1. Abscess
2. Carcinoma
3. TB



# **Bibasilar Interstitial Disease**

- 1. Bronchiectasis**
- 2. Aspiration**
- 3. DIP**
- 4. Asbestosis**
- 5. Sickle Cell Disease**
- 6. Scleroderma**

# Upper Lobe Disease

1. TB (2° TB)
2. Silicosis
3. Eosinophilic granuloma
4. Ankylosing spondylitis

# **Micronodular Lung Disease**

- 1. Mets**
- 2. Sarcoid**
- 3. Pneumoconiosis**
- 4. Miliary TB**

# **Chronic Interstitial Disease**

## **Pulmonary Fibrosis**

- 1. Pneumoconiosis**
- 2. Interstitial Pneumonia**
- 3. Granulomatous disease**
- 4. Neoplastic disease**
- 5. Idiopathic fibrosis**
- 6. Collagen vascular disease**

# Small Cavitory Lung Lesions

1. **Septic emboli**
2. **Rheumatoid nodules**
3. **Squamous or transitional cell mets**
4. **Wegener's Granulomatosis**

# Lymphangitic Spread to the Lungs

1. Lung ca
2. Breast ca
3. Stomach ca
4. Pancreas ca
5. Laryngeal ca
6. Cervical ca

# Multiple Lung Nodules

1. **Mets**
2. **Wegener's granulomatosis**
3. **Rheumatoid nodules**
4. **AVMs**
5. **Septic emboli**

# Pulmonary Interstitial Edema

1. CHF
2. Lymphangitic spread
3. Allergic reaction



# Shifting Infiltrates

1. Loeffler's syndrome
2. ABPA
3. Asthma
4. Polyarteritis
5. Viral pneumonia

# Unilateral Hyperlucent Lung

1. **Swyer-James syndrome**
2. **Pulmonary embolism**
3. **Pneumothorax**
4. **Obstructive emphysema**

# **Rapidly Clearing Alveolar Infiltrate**

- 1. Hemorrhage**
- 2. Pulmonary edema**
- 3. Aspiration**
- 4. Pneumococcal pneumonia**

# Cavitating Pneumonia

1. **Staph**
2. **Strep**
3. **TB**
4. **Gram negative (Klebsiella)**

# Middle Mediastinal Masses

1. Lymphadenopathy
2. Aneurysms
3. Esophageal duplication
4. Bronchogenic cysts

# Masses with Air Bronchograms

1. Lymphoma
2. Alveolar cell ca
3. Pseudolymphoma (Maltoma)

# Hilar Adenopathy

1. Sarcoid
2. TB
3. Lymphoma
4. Bronchogenic ca
5. Mets

# Cavities Containing Masses

1. Aspergillosis
2. Cavitating bronchogenic ca
3. Tuberculosis
4. Hydatid cyst



# Infiltrates with Effusion

1. **Staph pneumonia**
2. **Strep pneumonia**
3. **TB**
4. **Pulmonary infarct**

# **“Mass”+ ipsilateral adenopathy**

- 1. Bronchogenic ca**
- 2. Lymphoma**
- 3. TB**

# **Solitary Pulmonary Nodule**

- 1. Bronchogenic ca**
- 2. Hamartoma**
- 3. Histoplasmosis**
- 4. TB granuloma**
- 5. Bronchial adenoma**
- 6. Solitary met**
- 7. Round pneumonia**
- 8. Rounded atelectasis**

# Pleural Effusion

1. CHF
2. Mets
3. Pancreatitis
4. Pulmonary embolism
5. Trauma
6. Empyema
7. Collagen vascular
8. Ovarian tumor (Meig's Syndrome)
9. Chylothorax

# **Left-sided Pleural Effusion**

- 1. Boerhaave's Syndrome**
- 2. Dissecting aortic aneurysm**
- 3. Pancreatitis**
- 4. Distal thoracic duct rupture**

# Multiple Small Calcifications

1. **Histoplasmosis**
2. **Silicosis**
3. **Chicken pox pneumonia**
4. **Pulmonary ossification 2° MS**
5. **Alveolar microlithiasis**

# Posterior Mediastinal Masses

1. Neurogenic tumors
2. Lymphadenopathy
3. Extramedullary hematopoiesis

# Mediastinal Adenopathy

1. Bronchogenic ca
2. Lymphoma
3. TB
4. Mets
5. Sarcoid



# Lung Disease & Rib Destruction

1. **Bronchogenic ca, i.e Pancoast tumor**
2. **Actinomycosis**
3. **Blastomycosis**
4. **Multiple myeloma**

# Pleural Calcification

1. Old TB empyema
2. Asbestos exposure
3. Hemothorax

# **“Masses” in Cardiophrenic Angle**

- 1. Sequestration**
- 2. Diaphragmatic hernia**
- 3. Pericardial cyst**

# Unilateral Pulmonary Edema

1. **Aspiration**
2. **Disease in other lung, e.g. COPD**
3. **Postural**
4. **Rapid expansion of PTX**

# Reverse “Pulmonary Edema”

1. Eosinophilic lung disease, e.g. Loeffler’s
2. Sarcoid
3. Pulmonary contusions