

October 11, 2016 AHD Objectives

Pleural Effusions

1. Describe the symptoms and physical exam findings of a pleural effusion.
2. Describe the imaging modalities that are used to detect pleural effusion and their roles in the evaluation of the effusion. Understand the appropriate sequence of imaging for the evaluation of a pleural effusion.
3. Describe the indications for thoracentesis, the proper technique of the procedure, and the risks of complications of the procedure.
4. Describe the appropriate tests to order to evaluate pleural fluid according to Light's criteria (2-test and 3-test rule). Know how to determine if the fluid is transudative or exudative.
5. Describe the differential for transudative effusions and describe the evaluation that can help determine when a transudative effusion is falsely exudative (especially after diuretics have been given.)
6. Describe the differential for exudative effusions. Know the indications for chest tube drainage of exudative pleural effusions.

Asthma

1. Define asthma based on pathophysiology and spirometry including methacholine challenge.
2. Describe the different stages of asthma severity (intermittent and persistent).
3. Know the recommended treatments for each stage of asthma severity and describe the step-up and step-down approach to management.
4. Describe the diagnosis and management strategy of asthma exacerbation.

COPD

1. Define COPD based on pathophysiology and spirometry.
2. Describe the different stages of COPD severity by Gold criteria.
3. Know the recommended treatment for each stage of COPD severity.
4. Describe the diagnosis and management strategy of COPD exacerbation.