



Tulane Internal Medicine Clerkship School Individual Session Learning Objectives

Pulmonary Learning Objectives

1. Describe the pathophysiology of dyspnea and the major contributing organ systems
2. Recognize the signs, symptoms, and laboratory values associated with respiratory failure and ventilatory failure.
3. Describe the alveolar-arterial oxygen gradient and the pathophysiologic states that can alter it.
4. Describe the potential risk of relying too heavily on pulse oximetry as the sole indicator of arterial oxygen content.
5. Describe the common causes of acute and chronic dyspnea.
6. Describe the basic treatment options for the common causes of acute and chronic dyspnea.
7. Be able to characterize a cough as acute or chronic, productive or non-productive.
8. Recognize the signs, symptoms, pathophysiology, and differential diagnosis of the most common causes of cough.
9. Describe a rational approach to common upper respiratory infections.
10. Describe the pathophysiology and typical presentation of common URIs, pharyngitis, sinusitis, and otitis media, and their most common microbiologic agents.
11. Recognize the signs and symptoms that distinguish viral from bacterial pharyngitis.
12. Recognize the difference between influenza, acute and chronic bronchitis, and pneumonia.
13. Describe the role of symptomatic treatment for URIs and the major side effects/contraindications to these treatments.
14. Describe the evidence-based approach to the use of antibiotics in the treatment of URIs and allergic rhinitis.
15. Describe the epidemiology, risk factors, symptoms, signs, and typical clinical course of the common forms of COPD, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.
16. Recognize the common causes of acute COPD exacerbations.
17. Create a differential diagnosis based on the results of pleural fluid analysis.
18. Describe the etiology, pathogenesis, evaluation, and management of hypoxemia and hypercapnia.
19. Recognize the presentation of pulmonary embolism
20. Describe the risk factors that predispose patients to develop pulmonary embolism.
21. Describe the genetics of alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency in some patients with emphysema.
22. Describe the epidemiology, risk factors, symptoms, signs, and clinical course of asthma.
23. Describe the non/allergic factors that may precipitate bronchospasm and exacerbate asthma/COPD.
24. Describe the therapies for COPD and asthma.
25. Describe the indications for and efficacy of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines