### Pneumothorax



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## Introduction

#### Pneumothorax

#### • Air in pleural space

Air can enter from the outside
Injury penetrated the chest wall
Air can enter from inside
if the lung is torn or ruptured
E.g. (pulmonary bleb).



#### High Risk Patients for Pneumothorax

- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome
- Hemodynamically unstable who may require
  - Invasive Procedures
  - Ventilator
  - Resuscitations
- Postoperative Patients
- Trauma
  - Penetrating Injury of Chest
  - Rib Fracture
- Procedures
  - Thoracentesis
  - Central Venous Catheter placement
  - Bronchoscopy
  - Pericardiocentesis
  - Tracheostomy

# Types/ Etiology

#### Etiology

- Spontaneous
  - Primary
  - Secondary
- Iatrogenic / Traumatic

#### Type

- Open Pneumothorax
- Close Pneumothorax
- Tension Pneumothorax

## Spontaneous Pneumothorax

- Condition in which the lung collapses with no apparent injury or trauma
- Primary
  - Rupture of apical subpleural bleb
- Secondary
  - COPD = Emphysematous Bullae
  - Bacterial pneumonia
  - Lung abscess
  - Whooping cough
  - Asthma
  - AIDS/ Lung Tumor
  - Infective or Infiltrative Lung Disease
  - Pulmonary infarct

How Mechanical Ventilation Responsible for Pneumothorax ?

**Biotrauma** 

Barotrauma &

Atelectrauma

Volutrauma

#### Barotrauma & Volutrauma & Atelectrauma

- Barotrauma & Volutrauma
- Ventilator-induced lung injury by high levels of mechanical stress and strain that occur
  - When high airway pressures (Barotrauma) delivered.
  - When high volumes (Volutrauma) delivered.
- This stress and strain can disrupt the pulmonary fibroelastic skeleton and trigger a secondary inflammatory response.
- Atelectrauma
  - Stress and strain due to cyclic opening & closing of Alveoli.
  - Directly induce the release of inflammatory mediators and noxious proteinases.

#### **Tension Pneumothorax**

- When the pleural pressure is positive throughout respiratory cycle
  - "Ball-valve mechanism"
- Injury to pleura creates a tissue flap that opens on inspiration and closes on expiration





#### **Tension Pneumothorax**



#### **Open Pneumothorax**



#### **Close Pneumothorex**



## **Clinical Feature - Symptoms**

- Pain
  - Sharp Stabbing chest pain
  - Radiating to the shoulder and or back
- Acute Breathlessness Respiratory Distress
- Dry coughing
  - Because of irritation of the diaphragm.
- Palpitation
- Shock
  - Vaso vagal effect due to Mediastenal shifting
- Syncope

## **Clinical Feature - Sign**

- Marked tachycardia
- Hypotension
- Ispection
  - Diminised chest expansion on affeted site.
  - Bulging on affeted side
  - Displaced apex beat
- Palpation
  - Trachea displaced
  - Percussion
    - Tympanic

- If Lt side
  - Cardiac dullness diminised
- If Rt side
  - Reduce upper level of liver dullness

## Auscultation

- Close Pneumothorax
  - Decrease Air entry
- Open Pneumothorax
  - To and Fro Air sound
  - Voice and coughing heard with echo
- Tension Pneumothorax
  - Same as close pneumothorax
  - Mediastinal shifting more
  - Cynosis
  - Distended neck vein
  - Widening intercostal space.

## Investigations

**Invetigation to Diagnose Pneumpthorax** 

- X-Ray Chest
- CT-Scan

Invetigation to Find Cause of Pneumpthorax

- CBC
- Sputum Culture & Sensitivity
- CT-Scan



## X- Ray Finding

- Relative Hyperlucency Shadow
- Broncho-Pulmonary marking absent
- Contralateral Mediastinal Shifting
- Obliterated costophrenic angle (the deep sulcus sign)
- Raised Hemi-diaphragam

#### **CT** Thorax



#### Treatment

- Small pneumothorax
  - Resolve over days to weeks
  - Supplemental oxygen and observation
- Spontaneous pneumothorax
  - Asymptomatic Follow up with serial CXR
  - Symptomatic Tube Thoracostomy
- Tension Pneumothorax
  - Tube Thoracostomy
    - Until the lung leak seals on its own
    - This usually occurs within two to five days.

## **Treatment Options for Pneumothorax**

- Observation
- Needle aspiration
- Surgical Closure of bronchopleural fistula
- Percutaneous catheter to drainage
- Tube thoracostomy
- Tube thoracostomy with instillation of pleural irritant
- Segmental resection
- Thoracotomy

## Thoracostomy (Chest tube)



# Indications for Surgical Intervention

- Second episode
- Persistent air leakage for greater than 7-10 days
- First episode with unexpanded, "trapped" lung
- History of contralateral pneumothorax
- Bilateral pneumothorax
- Occupational risk (driver, airplane pilot, living ina remote area)
- Large bulla
- Large undrained hemothorax
- First episode in a patient with one lung
- First episode in a patient with severely compromised pulmonary function

