

pleuritic

A tall, thin 27 yr old male presents with sudden onset of right pleuritic chest pain. He flew back from Australia last week. A CXR has been performed. He has no PMH and is on no medication.

1. What is the differential diagnosis? 1 mark

*Pneumothorax, PE, infection, musculoskeletal 1 mark for >2*

PART A: Assuming his CXR shows a pneumothorax

2. Under what circumstances, under BTS guidelines, would you

a) manage him conservatively

*not SOB and rim of air < 2cm*

b) Aspirate his pneumothorax

*SOB or Rim of air > 2cm*

c) Insert a chest drain 3 marks

*2x aspiration unsuccessful*

3. If you had attempted aspiration but a repeat film showed a persisting pneumothorax, when would you re aspirate and when would you insert a chest tube? 2 marks

PART B: Assuming his CXR was normal,

4. What non-radiological investigations are available? 1 mark

*D-Dimer, FBC*

5. Name 3 radiological investigations available 2 marks

*Q Scan, Spiral CT, Pulmonary angiography*