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Lung Diseases and Chest Tubes

From watching these videos over different gas exchange diseases I have learned different things about each disease. For instance some of the disease are caused by smoking, air pollutants, and noxious gases while other diseases are caused by different bacterias. Some of these disease are curable and others are irreversible. Over all the disease all affect one's gas exchange in their own way. Chest tubes have also played a part in treatments for some of these disease helping those return to their normal daily lives.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) consist of Emphysema and Chronic Bronchitis. These are the most common conditions that make up COPD. They both bring damage to the lungs that cannot be reversed. Emphysema is described as the permanent enlargement and destruction of the airspace's distal to terminal bronchiole. Someone who has emphysema will have a barrel chest due to years of air trapping along with diminished breath sounds and weight loss. Chronic Bronchitis described as a daily productive cough for 3 months or more in 2 consecutive years. Someone who has Chronic Bronchitis usually are overweight and have cyanosis around their oral mucosa and nail beds. Medications and changing lifestyles will not cure the disease but can slow the progression of it and help the patient live a normal life.

Pneumonia is an infection that flares your lungs air sacs also known as alveoli. The sacs may fill up with fluids or pus. Pneumonia is easy to overcome for a healthy person but for certain groups of people that are sensitive to this infection such as new born babies, children under 2, elderly people such as 65 years or older, regular smokers and those with already weakened immune systems. This disease is made up of different types of pneumonias such as Aspiration Pneumonia, Community Acquired Pneumonia, Hospital Acquired Pneumonia, Ventilator Pneumonia, Medical Acquired Pneumonia, and Healthcare Associated Pneumonia. Thankfully with Pneumonia there is treatment for it unlike COPD. However lack of treatment can lead to a Lung Abscess which is a cavity formed by pus in the lungs that is in need of surgery in order to drain it.

Tuberculosis is an infection of the lungs caused by bacteria named Mycobacterium Tuberculosis. It is known to be one of the oldest diseases among humans and today it is one of the leading causes of infection and death in adults. It is highly contagious by being transmitted through droplets in the air from an infected person. Active TB is developed within a few weeks. It starts in the lungs and can move to different parts of the body such as the bones, kidneys, spinal cord, brain, and lymph nodes. However it is very rare and the condition is known as Extrapulmonary or Disseminated TB. Tuberculosis has medications that can treat the disease but these drugs can be very hard the liver so it is important to teach your patient signs of liver failure and ask if they have any liver complications.

A chest tube is a tube that is inserted in the pleural space of the lungs to remove air or fluid to help drain from the lung. If a lung with fluid or pus is not taken care of immediately a lung collapse is a possible outcome. There is also a tube inserted in the mediastinum that is placed under the sternum to drain fluid from around the heart after cardiac surgery. These tubes help prevent further infection in the body that could cause serious life threatening complications.

Gas exchange diseases have a huge impact on people in todays world effecting their everyday lives and even causing death all around the world.. Luckily we are advanced enough to have treatments that can help our symptoms from progressing and even reverse the damage caused by these diseases and return to our normal everyday lives.