

Critical Thinking Worksheet

Primary problem (medical diagnosis) of patient: Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the lung

1. Define and describe in your OWN WORDS, the pathophysiology of the primary problem of your patient: Squamous cell carcinoma develops in the lungs when squamous cells transform by keratinization and form tumors in the central part of the lung, in the left or right bronchus. Squamous cells are found in the lining of many organs, and smoking often causes the mutation to form tumors in the lungs.
2. How would you explain and teach your patient about the pathophysiology of this medical problem using non-medical terminology?

Squamous cell carcinoma is a type of lung cancer, and it has developed in your left lung. The squamous cells are what caused tumors to form in your lungs and is likely due to your history of smoking.

3. What body system(s) are directly impacted by this disease and how are those systems affected?

Body System(s):	How Body Systems is Affected(s):
• Respiratory	• tumors form in the central part of the lungs, in the left or right bronchus causing cough, shortness of breath, wheezing and chest pain

4. PRIORITY nursing assessments with this disease? (refer to body system that is most affected). What assessment findings may be abnormal as a result of this illness?

Priority Assessments:	Expected Abnormal Assessments:
• Respiratory • Cardiac	• low O ₂ sats, increased respirations • tachycardia

5. What lab tests are altered by this problem? How are those lab tests affected? Does the altered lab test affect any physical assessment findings?

Abnl. Lab Tests:	How Lab Tests Affected:	Does It Impact Assessments:
• WBC • Hemoglobin • Hematocrit • Platelets	• decreased • increased • increased • decreased	• low O ₂ sats • high respiratory rate • tachycardia

6. What Medications are most commonly used to manage this problem?

Medications:	Mechanism Of Action (Own Words):
• Chemo + radiation • vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitors (VEGF) • PD-1 + PD-L1 inhibitors	• Shrink non-small cell lung tumors • Block new vessel growth to prevent further growth of tumors • Block immune suppression, reactivating immune cells to attack

Lab Planning: Creating a Plan of Care with a Priority Lab

Lab: WBC	Normal Value: (3.8 - 11.5)	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
Value: 2.2	Critical Value: <1.0 >50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis of cancer • Infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S/S of infection: fever, chills, body aches, headache

Lab: Hemoglobin	Normal Value: (11.2 - 15.7)	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
Value: 14.7	Critical Value: <6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of oxygen to the tissues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low O₂ sats • increased respiratory rate

Lab: Hematocrit	Normal Value: (40 - 52.4)	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
Value: 44.8	Critical Value: <20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volume of RBC compared to the total blood volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low O₂ sats • increased respiratory rate

Lab: Platelets	Normal Value: (150 - 400)	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
Value: 125	Critical Value: <20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the blood to clot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low PLT's with cancer

Lab:	Normal Value:	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
Value:	Critical Value:		