

I learned that Tuberculosis is a contagious bacterial infection. I thought it was pretty alarming that out of all other diseases and traumas, tuberculosis is the leading cause of infection and death in adults. Being in the healthcare field, and being married to someone in healthcare, I have never heard of anyone having tuberculosis, so that was a very surprising stat. I also learned that Tuberculosis can spread throughout the body. It makes sense, but it is one of those things you rarely hear happening, so I didn't know it was possible. Some drugs used to treat tuberculosis are Rifampin, Isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide.

I learned that emphysema and chronic bronchitis fall UNDER the scope of COPD. I always thought COPD was its own disease, not a category for diseases. Emphysema effects the bronchioles while chronic bronchitis effects the bronchial tubes. The patients also physically appear quite differently. Emphysema patients are usually older and thin and appear pink. I learned that these patients appear pink because their body is working overtime (hyperventilating) to get a breath of air, this causes their cheeks and faces to appear temporarily red. On the other hand, chronic bronchitis patients usually are overweight and typically cyanotic. I also learned that in very rare cases emphysema can be handed down genetically, also called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency. Some medications to treat COPD are bronchodilators, anticholinergics, methylxanthine, glucocorticoids, prednisone, leukotriene agonists, and acetylcysteine.

I learned that pneumonia is an infection that inflames the alveoli. There are two types of pneumonia; hospital acquired, and community acquired. Hospital acquired pneumonia usually occurs about 48 hours after a patient is admitted. Community acquired pneumonia are 1 of 5: bacterial acquired, viral, fungal, aspiration or walking pneumonia. However, bacterial is the most common. Medications used to treat pneumonia are antimicrobials, antitussives, expectorants, mucolytics, and decongestants. It is also important to educate your patient on getting the pneumonia vaccine if they are over the age of 65 or educate the parents for children 2 and under.

I learned that there are two types of chest tubes. One is placed in the plural space to help draw out air and fluid from around the lungs and the other is placed in the mediastinum space to draw out fluids and air from around the heart usually after heart surgery. Chest tubes

are very uncomfortable to the patient but necessary for patient survival. As a nurse it is important to monitor the patients respiratory status, monitor the drain system and be proactive if something goes wrong with the chest tube.