



Pneumothorax

KEYWORDS

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Definition of pneumothorax:

Pneumothorax occurs when the parietal or visceral pleura is breached and the pleural space is exposed to positive atmospheric pressure.

Types of pneumothorax:

- Simple pneumothorax
- Traumatic pneumothorax
- Tension pneumothorax

Simple pneumothorax:

A simple ,or spontaneous pneumothorax occurs when air enters the pleural space through a breach of either the parietal or visceral pleural.

Traumatic pneumothorax:

A Traumatic pneumothorax occurs when air escapes from a laceration in the lung itself and enters the pleural space or from the wound in the chest wall.

Tension pneumothorax:

Atension pneumothorax occurs when air is drawn in to the pleural space from a lacerated lung or through a small opening or wound in the chest wall.

Clinical Manifestation:

- The signs and symptoms associated with pneumothorax depend on its size and cause.
- Pain is usually sudden may be pleuritic.
- The patient may have only minimal respiratory distress with slight chest discomfort,
- Tachypnea
- If the pneumothorax is large and the lung collapse totally, acute respiratory distress occurs.
- Air hunger ,
- Agitation,
- Increasing hypoxemia,
- Central cyanosis,
- Hypotension,
- Tachycardia,
- And profuse diaphoresis.

Medical management:

- Medical management of pneumothorax depends on its cause and severity. goal of treatment is to evacuate the air or blood from the pleural space.
- A small chest tube is inserted near the second intercostals space; this space is used because it is the thinnest part of the chest wall, minimize the danger of contacting the thoracic nerve and leaves a less visible scare.
- The pleural cavity can be decompressed by needle aspiration or by chest tube drainage of the blood or air.
- The lung is then able to reexpand and resume the function of gas exchange.
- The chest tube is inserted and connected to suction to remove the air and fluid, reestablish the negative pressure,reexpand the lung.

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