

Shortness of Breath

Life Threatening Causes

1. Congestive Heart Failure
2. Pneumonia
3. Asthma
4. COPD
5. Pulmonary Embolism
6. Pneumothorax
7. Tension pneumothorax
8. Pleural effusion
9. Anemia
10. Pericardial tamponade
11. Myocardial Infarction
12. Unstable Angina
13. Metabolic Acidosis
14. DKA
15. ASA toxicity
16. FB aspiration
17. Croup
18. Angioedema
19. Epiglottitis
20. Tracheitis-bacterial
21. Hydrocarbon aspiration
22. Myasthenia gravis
23. Anaphylaxis
24. ARDS
25. Pulmonary contusion
26. Bronchiolitis

5. CT Angio of Chest

6. D-Dimer
7. Peak flow
8. FEV-1
9. ECG
10. PCV
11. BNP
12. Leg dopplers
13. BMP
14. ASA level
15. VQ scan
16. STL neck
17. CT of neck
18. Cardiac stress testing
19. Pulmonary function testing

Procedures

1. CXR interpretation
2. ECG interpretation
3. Endotracheal intubation
4. BMP interpretation
5. STL neck interpretation

2/3 of SOB is due to cardiac or pulmonary cause

Other causes of SOB

1. panic attack
2. GERD
3. Irritant exposure
4. Rib fracture
5. Musculoskeletal chest pain

Evaluation

1. CXR
2. ABG
3. VBG
4. Pulse oximetry