

Mediastinal mass

(February 2017)

Rationale

Mediastinal masses that are found on X-ray are classified according to location. Location within the mediastinum is important for identifying the cause.

Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Anterior
 - a. Tumours (e.g., thymoma, lymphoma)
 - b. Other (e.g., aneurysm)
- Middle
 - a. Tumours (e.g., bronchogenic cancer)
 - b. Other (e.g., sarcoidosis)
- Posterior
 - a. Tumours (e.g., esophageal cancer)
 - b. Other (e.g., hiatal hernia)

Key Objectives

Given a patient with a mediastinal mass, the candidate will diagnose the cause, severity, and complications, and will initiate an appropriate management plan, in particular, differentiate between causes based on compartment location.

Enabling Objectives

Given a patient with mediastinal mass, the candidate will

1. list and interpret critical clinical findings, including
 - a. an appropriate history and physical examination to help determine the most likely cause;
2. list and interpret relevant investigations, including
 - a. laboratory and radiological investigations;
3. construct an effective initial management plan, including:
 - a. determining if the patient requires further investigation;
 - b. referral of the patient for specialized diagnostic tests and treatment, if necessary;
 - c. counselling and education of the patient regarding the nature and scope of needed investigations.