

# Mediastinal mass

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## 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.