

SAQ 1

A 62 yr old male presents to your Emergency Department complaining of dyspnoea and headache. He is currently on chemotherapy.

Vital signs:

HR 85

Bp 124/76

Temp 36.3 °C

a. Describe & interpret the clinical image of the patient (2 Marks)

1 Mark for description:

Facial flushing on elevation of the arms +/- fullness in anterior neck

1 Mark for Interpretation:

Superior vena caval syndrome +/- Pemberton's sign

b. List 4 causes of this clinical picture (4 Marks)

1 Mark each from:

- Primary lung carcinoma (70%)
- Lymphoma (10%)
- Metastatic neoplasm (10%)
- Non-neoplastic (10%)
 - Thrombosis
 - Benign tumours
 - Aortic aneurysm
 - Thyroid enlargement
 - Irradiation
 - Histoplasmosis
 - TB
 - Syphilis

c. List 8 side effects associated with chemotherapy (8 Marks)

1/2 Mark each from:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Nausea & vomiting | • Thrombocytopenia |
| • Renal failure | • Tumour lysis syndrome |
| • Cardiac failure | • Typhlitis (caecal necrosis) |
| • ACS | • HUS |
| • Venous thrombosis | • Haemorrhagic cystitis |
| • Arrhythmias | • Hair loss |
| • Neutropenia | • Stomatitis |
| • Pancytopenia | • Beau's lines |
| • Anaemia | |

Answers taken from Dunn, Emergency Medicine Manual, 5th Edition, Chpt 76 Oncology

Image taken from Wallace C, Siminoski K. The Pemberton Sign. Ann Intern Med. 1996;125:568-569