

Respiratory Case Study: 50 pts.

HISTORY

Deeply troubled parents bring their 11-month-old infant daughter to the emergency department of the hospital with a history of cough of two days' duration and noisy respiratory efforts. The infant seems to struggle for air and appears quite frightened.

EXAMINATION

On examination, the patient's face, and particularly the lips, display bluish discoloration (cyanosis), the nostrils dilate with every breath, and the child struggles for air. In breathing, the accessory muscles of respiration are also used. The infant has a rapid pulse and a temperature of 101°F. From time to time, she has noisy coughing spells. The throat and larynx appear red and inflamed. On auscultation, coarse rales are heard over the chest.

Questions:

1. Give a thorough explanation of the history and examination. Explain each sign / symptom and what is being affected. (10 pts.)
2. Make an initial diagnosis; explain this diagnosis and the proof behind your diagnosis. (20 pts.) Use the following questions to guide your research.
 - We are dealing here with an infant in severe respiratory distress. What is the explanation for the cyanosis, particularly noticeable on the lips?
 - What accessory muscles of respiration are used in case of respiratory difficulties?
3. What technique/ surgery/ therapy is used to alleviate these conditions? Explain your ideas and the exact process. (10 pts)
4. Discuss / show any complications of the treatment. Remember to discuss any additional complications taking into consideration the age of the patient. (10 pts.)