

QUESTION

Scenario

- 1. A 60-year-old male with a long history of smoking presents with a 2-week history of coughing up blood-tinged sputum.
- 2. He reports a 10-pound weight loss and persistent fatigue.
- 3. A recent chest X-ray shows a 3-cm nodule in the upper lobe.
- 4. He has no known allergies and is on no medications.
- 5. His medical history is significant for hypertension and hyperlipidemia.

Options

- A. Start empiric antibiotics.
- B. Schedule a CT scan of the chest.

Correct Answer

- A. Start empiric antibiotics.
- B. Schedule a CT scan of the chest.
- C. Refer to a pulmonologist for further evaluation.
- D. Perform a sputum culture and sensitivity.

Explanation

- 1. The patient's symptoms and chest X-ray findings are highly suggestive of lung cancer.
- 2. A CT scan of the chest is the next step to further evaluate the nodule.

Reference(s)

- 1. American Cancer Society. Lung Cancer Facts and Figures.

ANSWER EXPLANATION

The patient's symptoms and chest X-ray findings are highly suggestive of lung cancer. A CT scan of the chest is the next step to further evaluate the nodule.



- 1. The correct answer is B. Schedule a CT scan of the chest.
- 2. The incorrect answer is A. Start empiric antibiotics.

Why is this question important?

This question is important because it tests the ability to recognize the clinical presentation of lung cancer and the appropriate next step in management. The patient's symptoms and chest X-ray findings are highly suggestive of lung cancer, and a CT scan of the chest is the next step to further evaluate the nodule.

What are the key points?

- 1. The patient's symptoms and chest X-ray findings are highly suggestive of lung cancer.
- 2. A CT scan of the chest is the next step to further evaluate the nodule.
- 3. The patient's medical history is significant for hypertension and hyperlipidemia.