

OSCE

Candidate information

Your intern has been seeing a 48 year old female who is usually well. Sandra presented with two days of coryzal symptoms. She has become progressively more dyspnoeic, and is now dyspnoeic at rest.

Your intern has done a CXR and is unsure how to investigate this patient further.

Obs

BP 122/75

HR 115

T 37

RR 26

Sats 95% RA

Domain	%
Medical expertise	60
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	
Health advocacy	
Scholarship and teaching	40
Professionalism	

Pleural effusion

Actor (intern) information

You have been seeing Sandra, a 48 year old female who is usually well. She presented with two days of coryzal symptoms and increasing dyspnoea. She is now dyspnoeic at rest.

Her obs: BP 122/75 HR 115 Afebrile RR 26 Sats 95% RA

You have done a CXR and want to ask your consultant how to further investigate Sandra.

Prompts:

- How would you do a pleural tap in this patient?
- How would you interpret the results?
- What is the differential diagnosis of this in THIS patient?

Marking:

	Mark
Explains how to do a pleural tap (with ultrasound guidance)	2
Explains Light's criteria	2
Accurate interpretation of CXR	1
Reasonable DDx of pleural effusion in young, fit patient	1
Appropriate investigations – CT/cultures/sLDH/sProt/other	2
Interprets results of tap	1
Mentions risks/complications of pleural tap	1



Pleural tap results:

Appearance: slightly turbid

pH: 7.30

Glucose level: 60mg/dL

LDH level: 700 uL

PMN count: <15000