



Palliative care cases

A 62 year-old woman with a history of breast cancer presents with breathlessness.

She has recently stopped palliative chemotherapy due to recurrent neutropaenia and progression of her disease.

BP 85/40 mmHg, Sats 95% on high flow oxygen, RR 20

What is your differential diagnosis?

Describe your initial management and investigations.

Consider

- PE
- Lung metastases
- Pericardial effusion!
- Pleural effusion

A 53 year-old man with advanced lung cancer presents with progressive difficulty breathing and headache.

Examination reveals periorbital oedema and dilated veins over his neck and upper chest.

What is your working diagnosis?

What is your initial management?

How do you confirm the diagnosis?

What is the definitive management?



A 68 year-old man with advanced lung cancer is brought to the ED by his family with progressively worsening confusion, difficulty walking, and three falls in the last 24 hours.

Describe your history and examination

Need to consider a broad range of differential diagnoses

- Cerebral metastases
- Subdural after the fall

- Hypercalcaemia of malignancy
- Hyponatraemia (SIADH)
- Infection / sepsis
- Cord compression (less likely to cause confusion)

An initial blood gas demonstrates an ionised calcium of 1.8 mmol/L

Describe your treatment

