

Life in the fast lane

This 25 year old female presented with worsening breathless. She has no previous medical problems. **Chest X-ray** was done + describe the findings (Look at screen).

The **pulse oximeter** reads 90% so you decide to perform a **blood gas**. What do the results mean?

| <u>BLOOD GASES</u> | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Temperature | 37.0 |
| pH | <u>7.46H</u> |
| pCO2 | <u>25L</u> |
| HCO3 (Std) | <u>21L</u> |
| Base Excess | <u>-5.6L</u> |
| pO2 | <u>61L</u> |
| O2 Sat | <u>90L</u> |

| <u>ELECTROLYTES (Whole Blood)</u> | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Potassium | 3.7 |
| Sodium | 140 |
| Chloride | <u>115H</u> |
| iCa++ | 1.16 |
| Glucose | 5.6 |
| Lactate | 0.9 |

After careful consideration of the diagnostic possibilities you decide to perform a **CTPA** (CT Angio Pulmonary Arteries/Veins).

What is the result?

Before anticoagulating the patient you review the **blood tests**:

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Date: | 02/11/07 | | |
| Time: | 22:15 | | |
| | | Units | Ref Range |
| ----- | | | |
| <u>Full Blood Count (Whole Blood)</u> | | | |
| Hb | 150 | g/L | 130-170 |
| WCC | 5.4 | x10 ⁹ /L | 4.0-11.0 |
| PLT | 26L | x10 ⁹ /L | 140-400 |
| RCC | 5.39 | x10 ¹² /L | 4.50-5.70 |
| PCV | 0.44 | L/L | 0.40-0.50 |
| MCV | 82.0 | fL | 80.0-96.0 |
| MCH | 27.9 | pg | 27.0-33.0 |
| MCHC | 340 | g/L | 320-360 |
| RDW | 15.2H | % | 11.0-15.0 |
| <u>White Cell Differential</u> | | | |
| Neut | 4.3 | x10 ⁹ /L | 2.0-8.0 |
| Lymph | 0.8L | x10 ⁹ /L | 1.2-4.0 |
| Mono | 0.3 | x10 ⁹ /L | 0.1-1.0 |
| Eos | 0.1 | x10 ⁹ /L | 0.0-0.5 |
| Baso | 0.0 | x10 ⁹ /L | 0.0-0.1 |
| 07R891053 02/11/07 22:15 | | | |
| Film Comment : Please note marked thrombocytopenia. | | | |
| Red cells are normochromic normocytic with mild | | | |
| polychromasia. No fragmentation seen. | | | |
| Leucocytes are normal. | | | |
| Date: | 02/11/07 | | |
| Time: | 22:15 | | |
| | | Units | Ref. |
| ----- | | | |
| <u>Coagulation (Plasma)</u> | | | |
| INR | 1.3 | | 0.8-1.3 |
| APTT | 51H | secs | 24-35 |
| Fibrinogen | 4.3 | g/L | 2.0-5.0 |
| APTT mix | 41.9 | secs | |
| 07R891053 02/11/07 22:15 | | | |
| APTT Mix: 50/50 mixture of the patient's plasma with normal plasma | | | |
| - NOT Corrected. | | | |
| The APTT was repeated using high phospholipid reagent. The | | | |
| result was 31 seconds. | | | |

What is the diagnosis?

How would you treat this patient? (by the way the answer is not to ask someone else from another speciality what to do)

While waiting for the steroids to work you need to make sure that patient doesn't drop dead from a further pulmonary embolism so you order an **ultrasound of the legs** to assess the situation further.

What does the ultrasound demonstrate?

What is this?

ECG was done on admission. Describe it.