BMJ Best Practice



Clinical Scenarios

A 66-year-old man presents with progressive shortness of breath and a cough productive of yellowish sputum.



His symptoms have been going on for the past 2 years. He has a smoking history of one pack per day for the past 47 years.

On examination he is very thin and in moderate respiratory distress. Lung examination reveals a barrel chest and poor air entry bilaterally, with moderate inspiratory and expiratory wheezing. Lower extremities shows some pitting oedema.

- ? What are the differential diagnoses?
- What is the most likely diagnosis?
- ? What tests would you request and what treatment would you advise?

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