

Demonstration scenario: unilateral
diaphragmatic weakness

New Station 5

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- You will be asked to see two patients at this station. The clinical information about one of these patients is given in the box below. You should have a second sheet giving you information about the other patient.
- You have 10 minutes with each patient. The examiners will alert you when 6 minutes have elapsed and will stop you after 8 minutes.
- In the remaining 2 minutes, one examiner will ask you to report abnormal physical signs (if any), your diagnosis or differential diagnosis, and your plan for management (if not already clear from your discussion with the patient).

Your role: You are the medical doctor on-call, and have been asked to give a Medical patient undergoing a routine elective cystoscopy,

Patient name: Mr Geoff Ball – aged 53 years

This 53 year-old man reported in passing that he gets short of breath when Immersed in water.

Your task is to assess the patient's problems and address any questions or concerns raised by the patient.

- You should assess the problem by means of a relevant clinical history and a relevant physical examination. You do not need to complete the history before carrying out appropriate examination.
- You should respond to any questions the patient may have, advise the patient of your probable diagnosis (or differential diagnoses) and your plan for investigation and treatment where appropriate.
- You have 8 minutes to complete the task.

Demonstration scenario: unilateral
diaphragmatic weakness

New Station 5

INFORMATION FOR PATIENT

The doctors sitting the examination have been asked to assess your problem. They will have 8 minutes to ask you about the problem and any other relevant issues. They will also examine you. They should explain to you what they think is wrong and what action should be taken and answer any questions you have, for example about the diagnosis, tests that may be needed, or treatment. One of the examiners will ask them to describe any abnormal examination findings and give their diagnosis.

Your history is described below.

You are: Mr Geoff Ball – aged 53 years

Your problem: shortness of breath on
swimming

A year ago, due to investigations for blood in your urine, you were found to have a polyp in your bladder. This was resected. You undergo regular cystoscopy, and you are attending for one to be performed under local anaesthetic tomorrow.

In passing, you mentioned to the junior surgeon that you always get short of breath when you plunge yourself in water. You do not know what causes this, but as soon as you come out of water, your breathing returns to normal.

You should ask the candidate the candidate what could be the cause of your breathing symptoms. You should specifically inquire whether the candidate's findings affect your operation going ahead tomorrow.

**Demonstration scenario: unilateral
diaphragmatic weakness**

New Station 5

INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS

Patient: Mr Geoff Ball – aged 53 years

Examiners should discuss and agree the criteria for pass and for fail in the competencies being assessed.

As a general guide, candidates would be expected to

- Obtain a short and accurate description of the problem.
- Suggest that an unilateral diaphragmatic weakness is possible on the basis of the clinical signs, but that a pleural effusion in reality might have to be excluded.
- Examine the lung fields.
- Explain the need for further investigation (if any), address the patient's concerns, and to produce a sensible management plan.

The lead examiner should:

- a) Advise the candidate after 6 minutes have elapsed that "You have two minutes remaining with your patient"
- b) Ask the candidate to describe any abnormal physical findings that have been identified
- c) Ask the candidate to give the preferred diagnosis and any differential diagnosis that is being considered
- d) Any remaining areas of uncertainty eg regarding the plan for investigation or management of the problem may be addressed in any time that remains.