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by J B

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Peer 1

Raymond Jones being indeed 56-year-old and with a history of heavy smoking simultaneously, an addict to heroin and alcohol use, stands at a high risk of COPD and lung cancer. Not forgetting that he combines illicit drug use with other carcinogenic substances such as tobacco and alcohol puts him at a higher risk. To understand the risk factors, I highly commend you for indicating the risk factors that Mr. Jones possesses, including obesity, heroin use, alcohol use, and smoking. With this in place, I believe he had to exhibit symptoms such as wheezing, hoarseness, and chronic cough the moment he received a flu shot. I also find your post informative as you highlight Mr. Jones's history of hypertension, iron deficiency, anemia and bloody sputum. Dwelling on clinical manifestations, it is clear that he portrays signs of wheezing, hoarseness, and chronic cough while not forgetting that he is also presenting dullness of the upper lobe of his right lung. Finally, your post tends to shed more light on his health status by recommending the right treatment, which he has to visit an oncologist for a lung biopsy to rule out COPD as well as lung cancer.

Why does illicit drug use with other carcinogenic substances such as tobacco and alcohol put Mr. Jones at high risk for COPD together with lung cancer?

Peer 2

Having gone through the same episode, it is true that the episode started with a man named Jones coughing and not being able to stop. Surprisingly, as noted in your post, a nurse meets this patient on his first day at work. I commend you for also highlighting that the same patient had received a flu vaccine 2 weeks ago and as the two meet, he cannot stop coughing and wheezing.

However, I believe his inability to recover is his smoking habits for over 15 years now. It is also true that he had been an alcohol and heroin addiction before but is sober for 4 years now. For that reason, the physicians had to order an X-ray for Mr. Jones due to his symptoms. Since he has been coughing, wheezing, and has smoked for 15 years, a chest x-ray is the best way to find out what is ailing him. As noted in your post, there are higher chances that he could have COPD or lung cancer. Surprisingly, their fears were confirmed after the X-ray and later identified a mass that was ruled out as lung cancer. I accede that after finding out that it is lung cancer, the next step was to find out how much it has spread and if it is malignant or not. It is true that according to CDC (2020), as your post indicates, non-small cell lung cancer may undergo surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or even all the treatments mentioned above. However, patients having small cell lung cancer may only have to undergo radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

What is the rationale behind patients with non-small cell lung may undergo surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or even all the treatments mentioned above?

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