

Introduction

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Pulmonary emergencies are potentially life-threatening conditions that require immediate attention to avoid delay in treatment. These patients most often present with severe dyspnoea, but other symptoms and signs may include collapse, chest pain and haemoptysis. A variety of healthcare professionals, such as pulmonologists, emergency room (ER) physicians, intensivists, general internists, anaesthesiologists, respiratory therapists, residents and ER nurses, may be involved in the acute care of these patients. The differential diagnosis of a pulmonary emergency, *e.g.* presenting with dyspnoea, may be very broad and could result from dysfunction of the airways, lung parenchyma or pulmonary vasculature. In every patient presenting to the ER, this differential diagnosis should be considered.

In this *ERS Monograph*, the most common and also rather less common causes for pulmonary emergencies are described. Each chapter discusses pathophysiology, differential diagnosis and treatment strategies. In addition, the last five chapters describe common pulmonary interventions in detail. The chapters are written by recognised experts in their field and all chapters have been peer reviewed. Thanks to the effort of so many professionals, this has become a very impressive *ERS Monograph* that will definitely be of value to all colleagues involved in the care of patients with pulmonary emergencies.

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