

The Year in Review Series: Case 3. Abnormal CXR  
Case-based NBME review



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### Spirometry (BTPS)

		Predicted Mean	Pre Bronchodilator Actual	% Pred
FVC	L	2.57	2.02	79
FEV <sub>1</sub>	L	2.08	1.17	57
FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC	%	79	58	73

### Lung Volumes (Box)

		Predicted Mean	Pre Bronchodilator Actual	% Pred
TLC	L	4.53	5.80	128
VC	L	2.57	2.17	84
RV	L	1.96	3.63	185
IC	L	1.93	1.41	73
FRC	L	2.60	4.39	169
ERV	L	0.64	0.76	119
RV/TLC	%	42	63	150

### Diffusion

		Predicted Range Mean	Pre Bronchodilator Actual	% Pred
DLCO	mL/min/mmHg	19.91	9.62	48
DLCO [Hb]	mL/min/mmHg	19.91	9.62	48



Patient presents with chronic dyspnea. Studies obtained.  
Which of the following most likely explains the pathophysiologic basis for a reduced diffusing capacity?

1. Diffusion defect
2. Hypoventilation
3. Perfusion defect
4. Physiologic shunt
5. Decreased alveolar surface area

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Patient presents with chronic dyspnea. Studies obtained. Which cell type most contributed to the constellation of findings observed in these studies?

1. Fibroblast
2. Type II Pneumocyte
3. Polymorphonuclear leukocyte
4. Mast cell
5. B-lymphocyte
6. T-lymphocyte
7. Eosinophil



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Which pathologic process best describes the basis of these findings in this patient with chronic SOB?

1. Interstitial wall destruction
2. Bronchial smooth muscle hyperresponsiveness
3. Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
4. Pulmonary artery smooth muscle proliferation
5. Deficiency of protease inhibitor
6. Loosely formed granulomas

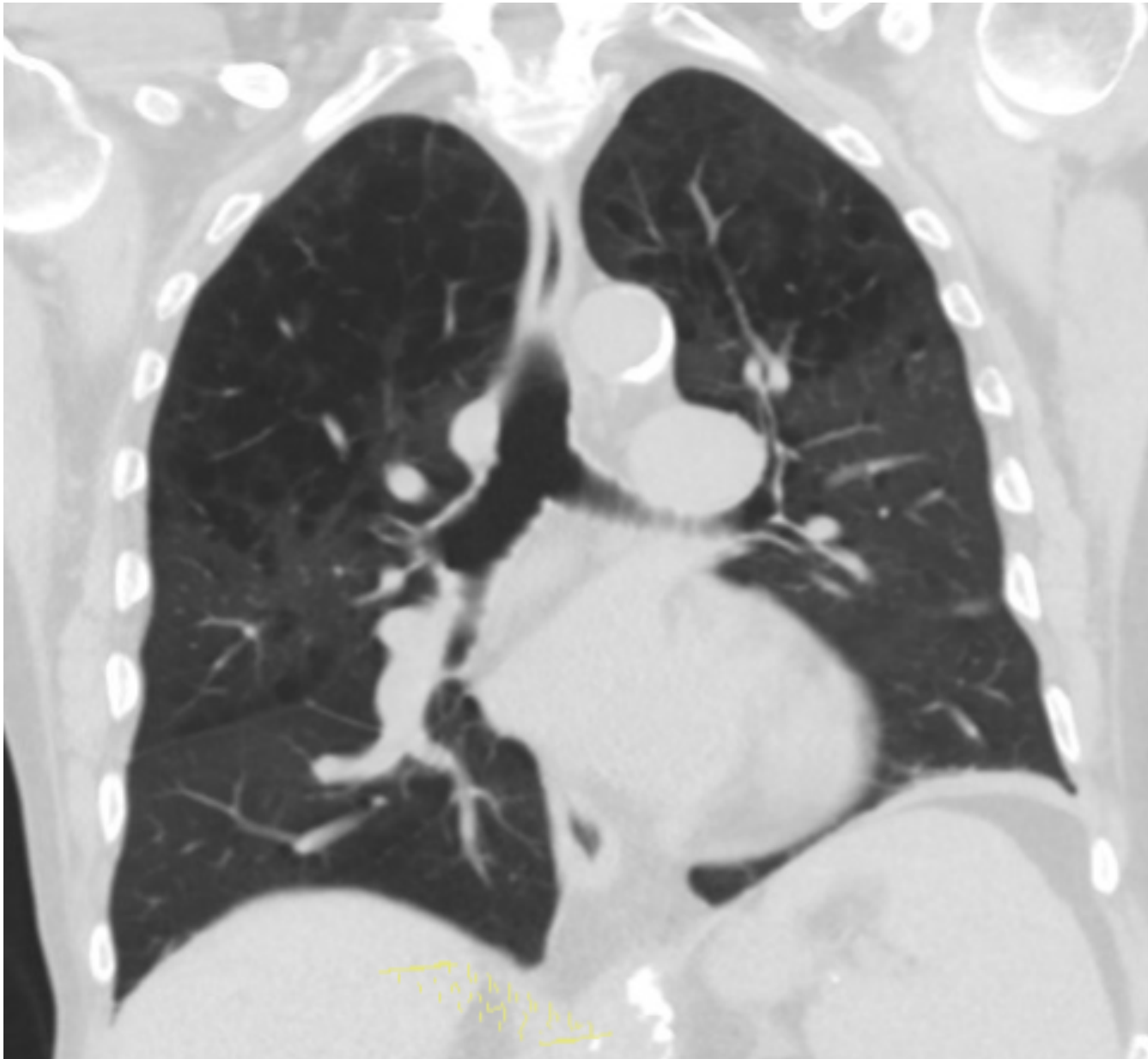
On physical exam, this patient has decreased breath sounds bilaterally and is hyperresonant throughout. Cardiac exam reveals an elevated JVP, a loud second heart sound at the upper LSB and a I/VI systolic murmur at LLSB.

Which of the following most likely accounts for the cardiac findings?

1. Hypoxia-induced vasoconstriction
2. Pulmonary artery obstruction
3. Obliterative arteriopathy
4. Ventricular septal defect
5. Pulmonary venous congestion



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The same patient is referred for CT scan. Coronal image shown. Which of the following is most likely associated with this imaging abnormality?

- A. Anti-protease deficiency
- B. Toxin exposure
- C. Granulomatous destruction
- D. Chronic infectious illness

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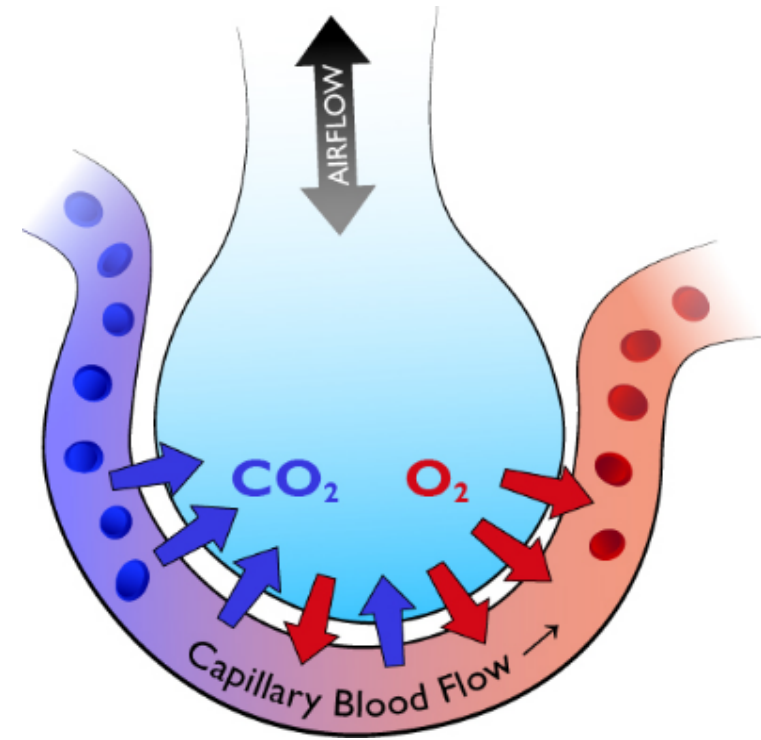
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Diffusing Capacity (DLCO)  
Alveolar-Interstitial-Capillary Interface

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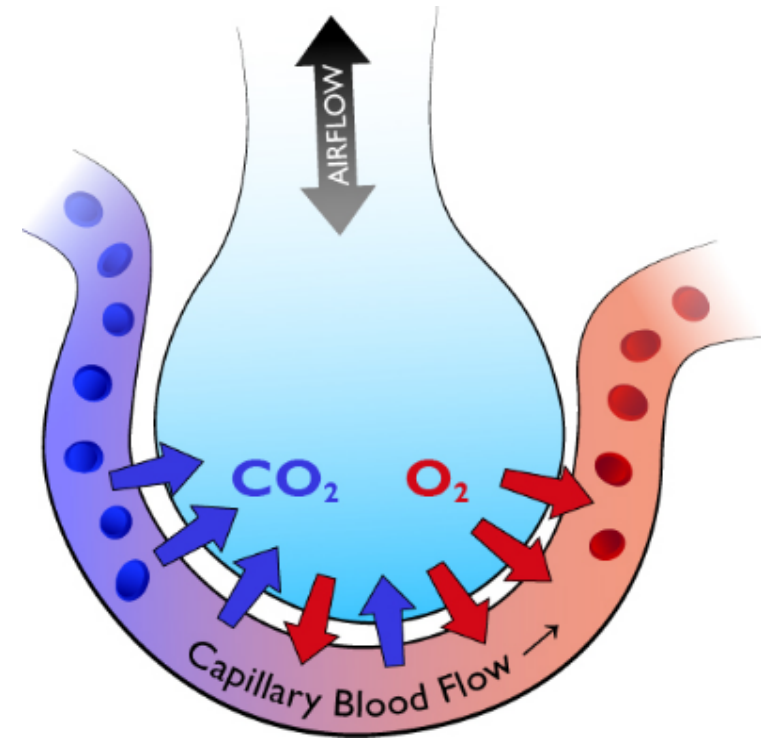
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Diffusing Capacity (DLCO)  
Alveolar-Interstitial-Capillary Interface

Loss of alveolar surface area (e.g. COPD)  
Disease of interstitium (e.g. IPF)  
Pulmonary vascular disease

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Air Trapping  
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Marked Reduction (DLCO)  
Diagnosis depends on clinical correlation

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**Apical involvement: Centrilobular emphysema**

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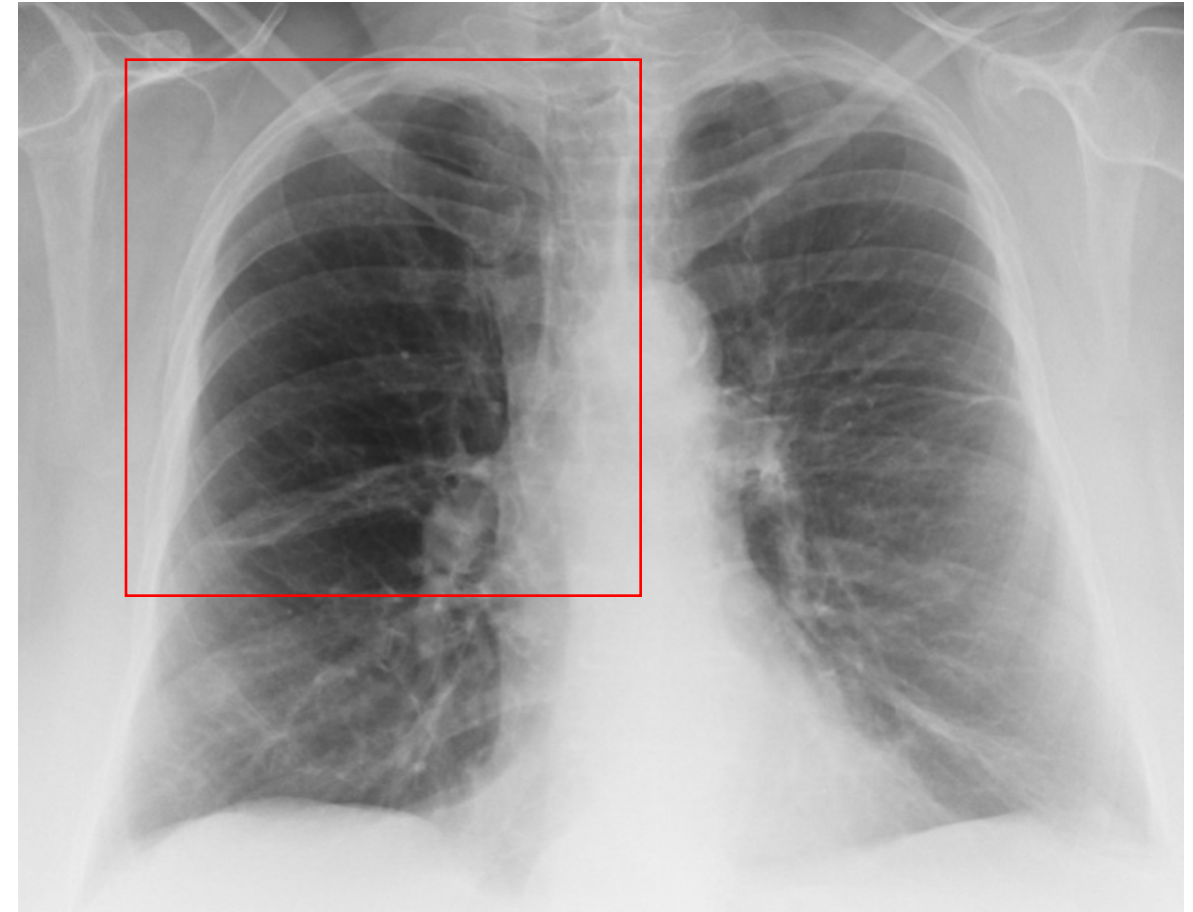
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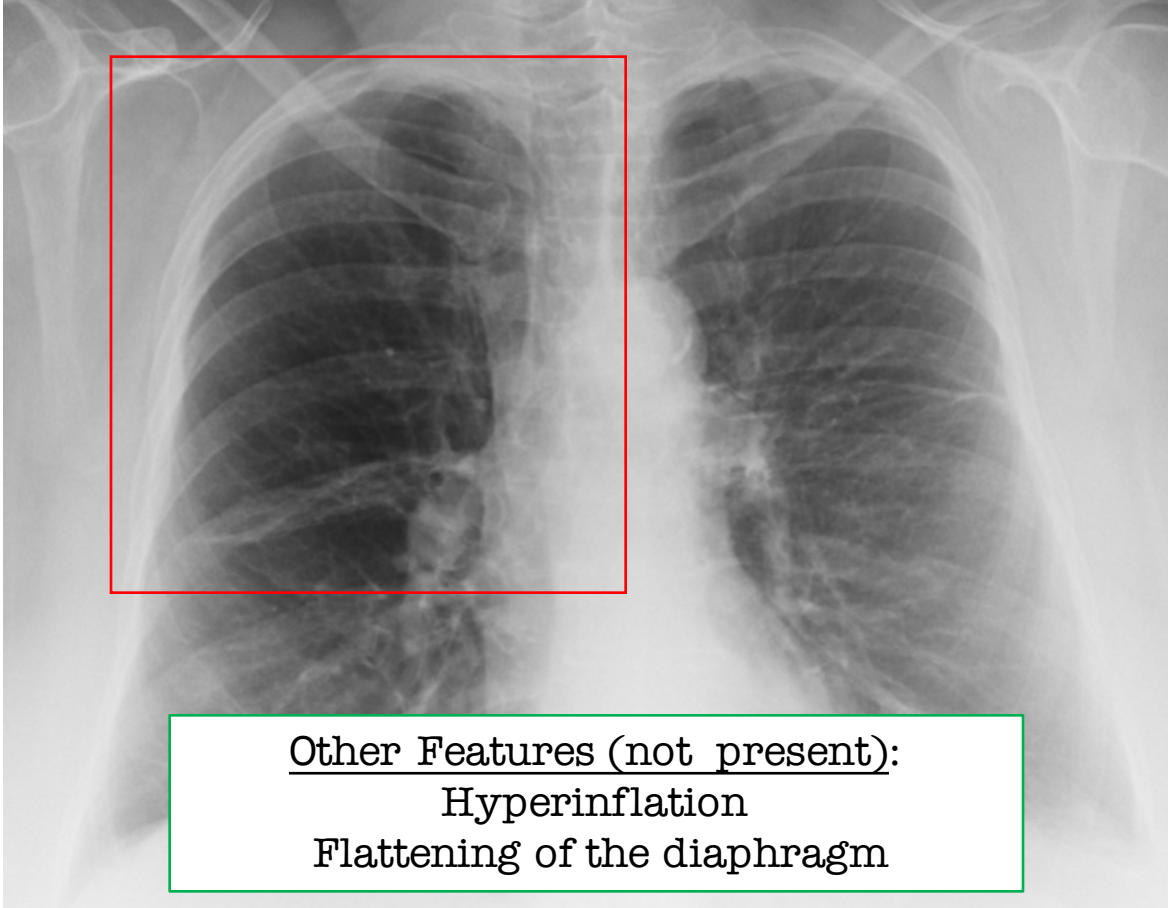


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Other Features (not present):  
Hyperinflation  
Flattening of the diaphragm

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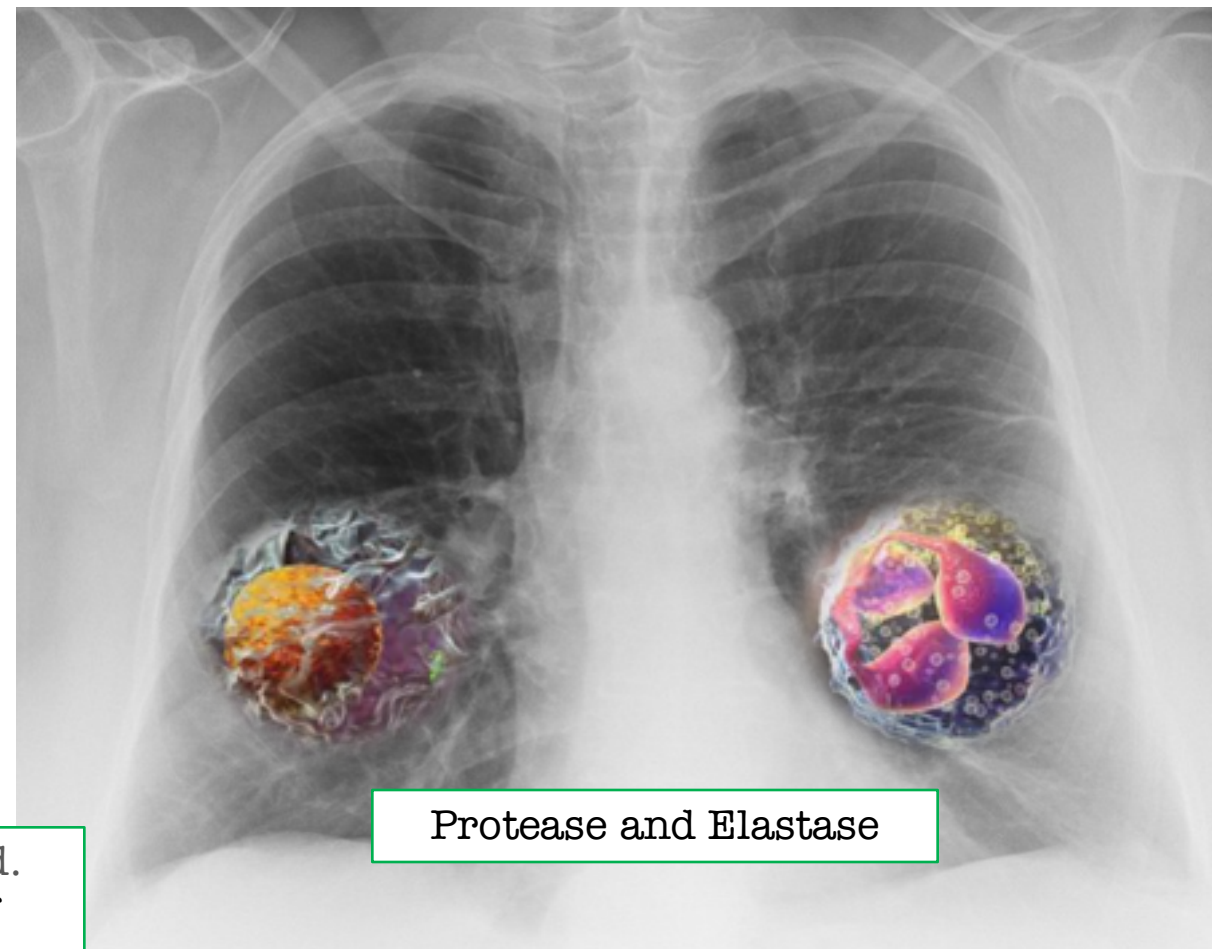
		Predicted Mean	Pre Bronchodilator Actual	% Pred
TLC	L	4.53	5.80	128
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ERV	L	0.64	0.76	119
RV/TLC	%	42	63	150

### Diffusion

		Predicted Range Mean	Pre Bronchodilator Actual	% Pred
DLCO	mL/min/mmHg	19.91	9.62	48
DLCO [Hb]	mL/min/mmHg	19.91	9.62	48

Patient presents with chronic dyspnea. Studies obtained. Which **cell type** most contributed to the constellation of findings observed in these studies?

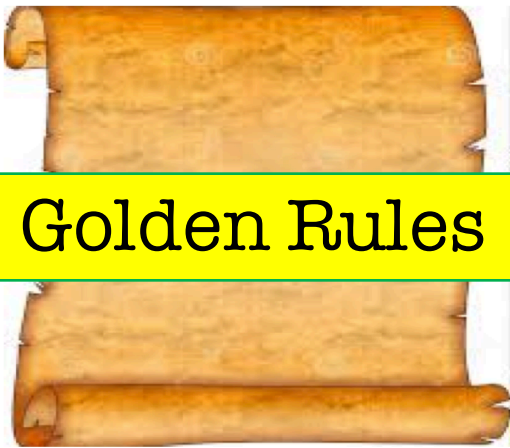
1. Fibroblast
2. Type II Pneumocyte
3. Polymorphonuclear leukocyte (or MΦ)
4. Mast cell
5. B-lymphocyte
6. T-lymphocyte
7. Eosinophil



Protease and Elastase

## Quick Associations

1. Fibroblast
2. Type II Pneumocyte
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4. Mast cell
5. B-lymphocyte
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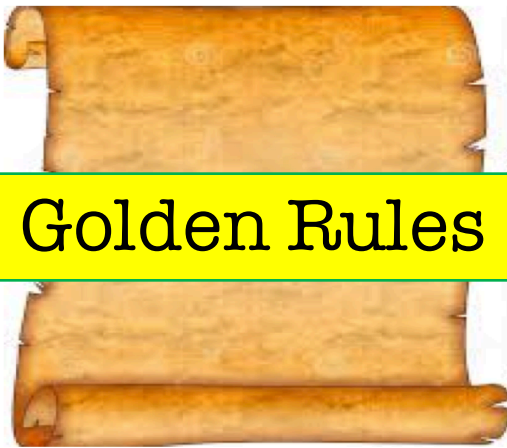


## Golden Rules

Take Less Notes, Not More

Quick Associations

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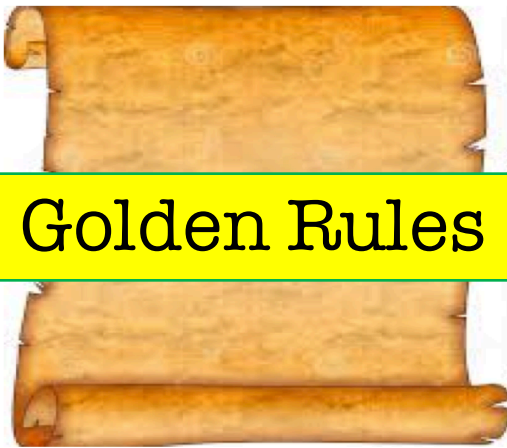
## Golden Rules

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1. Fibroblast: pulmonary fibrosis → IPF, Diffuse Systemic Sclerosis
2. Type II Pneumocyte
3. Macrophage
4. Mast cell
5. B-lymphocyte
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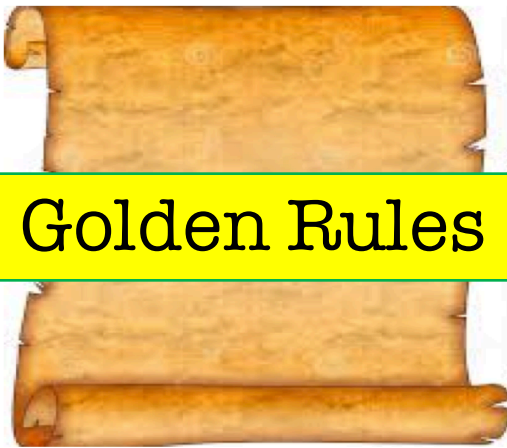


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## Golden Rules

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Quick Associations

1. Fibroblast: pulmonary fibrosis → IPF, Diffuse Systemic Sclerosis
2. Type II Pneumocyte → Surfactant, Regenerative Cell
3. (blank)
4. Mast cell → Degranulation in Asthma, Anaphylaxis (tryptase)
5. B-lymphocyte
6. T-lymphocyte
7. Eosinophil → Asthma, Parasites, IL-5, Major Basic Protein (Charcot-Leydon crystals)

### Spirometry (BTPS)

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Which **pathologic** process best describes the basis of these findings in this patient with chronic SOB?

1. **Interalveolar wall destruction**
2. Bronchial smooth muscle hyperresponsiveness
3. Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
4. Pulmonary artery smooth muscle proliferation
5. Deficiency of protease inhibitor
6. Loosely formed granulomas

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This is the pathologic description of emphysema

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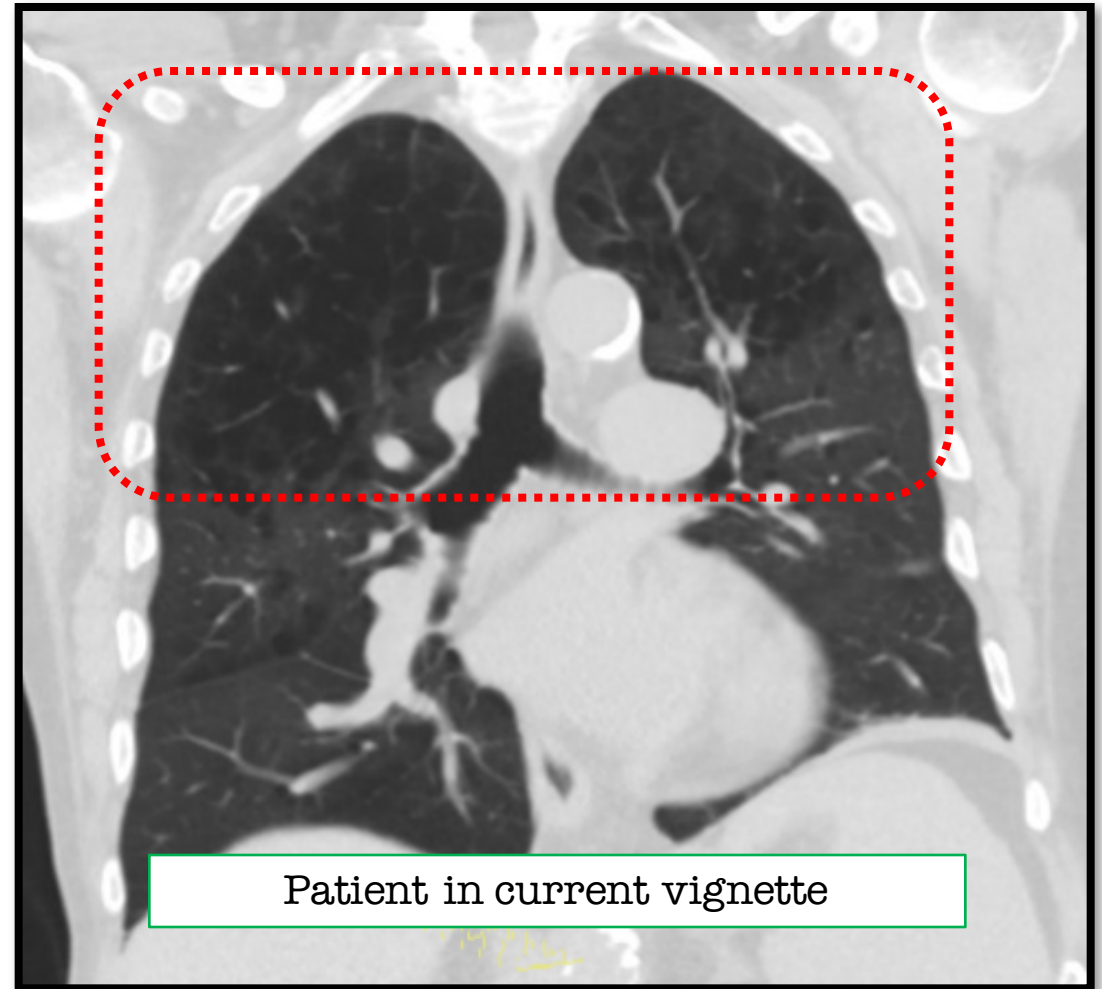
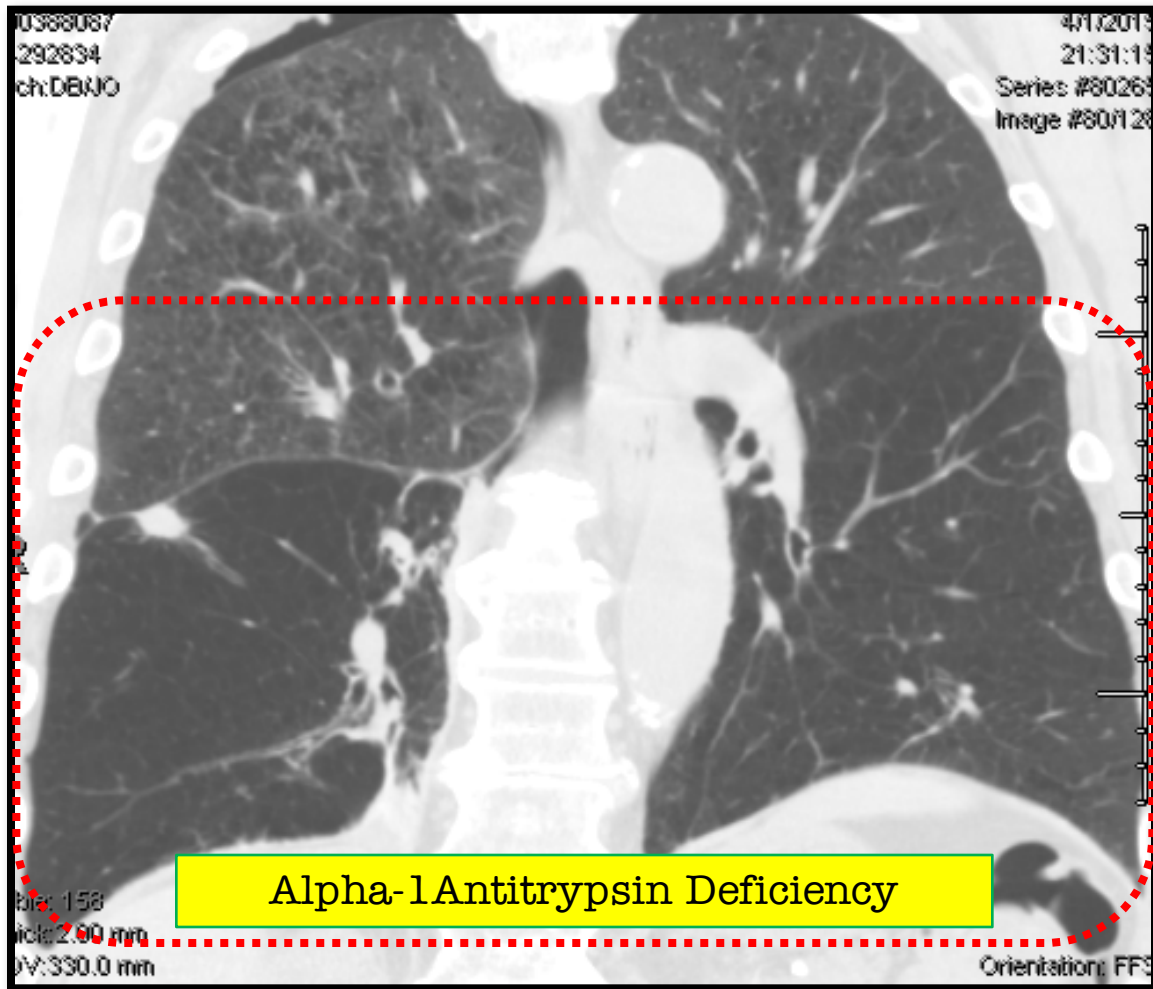
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Which **pathologic** process best describes the basis of these findings in this patient with chronic SOB?

2. Bronchial smooth muscle hyperresponsiveness: asthma
3. Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
4. Pulmonary artery smooth muscle proliferation: PPH, Diffuse Systemic Sclerosis
6. Loosely formed granulomas: hypersensitivity pneumonitis (well formed in sarcoid)



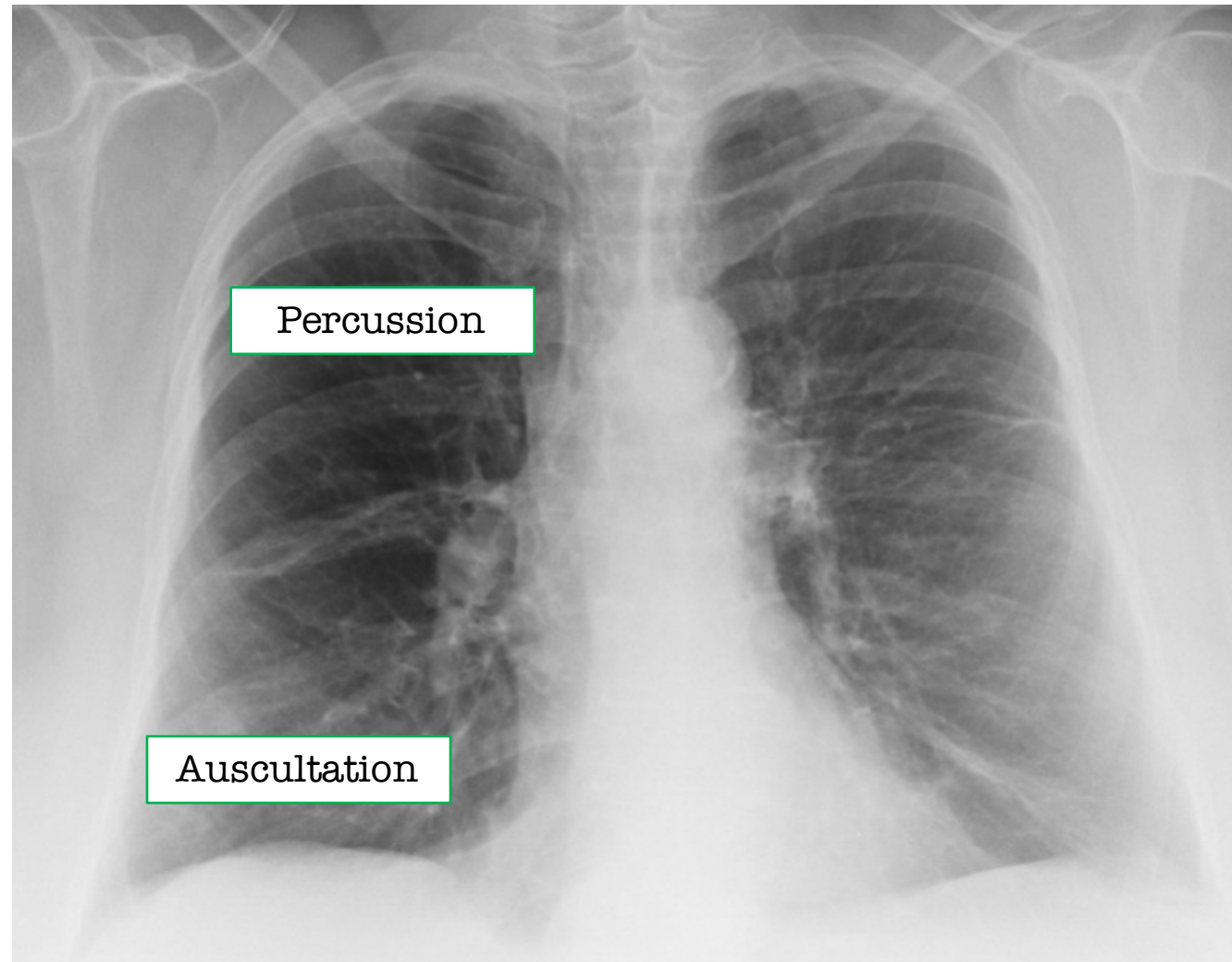
5. Deficiency of protease inhibitor: A1AT, basilar involvement, panacinar



On physical exam, this patient has **decreased breath sounds bilaterally** and is **hyperresonant** throughout. Cardiac exam reveals an elevated JVP, a loud second heart sound at the upper LSB and a I/VI systolic murmur at LLSB.

Which of the following most likely accounts for the cardiac findings?

COPD: ↓ Breath Sounds and Hyperresonance

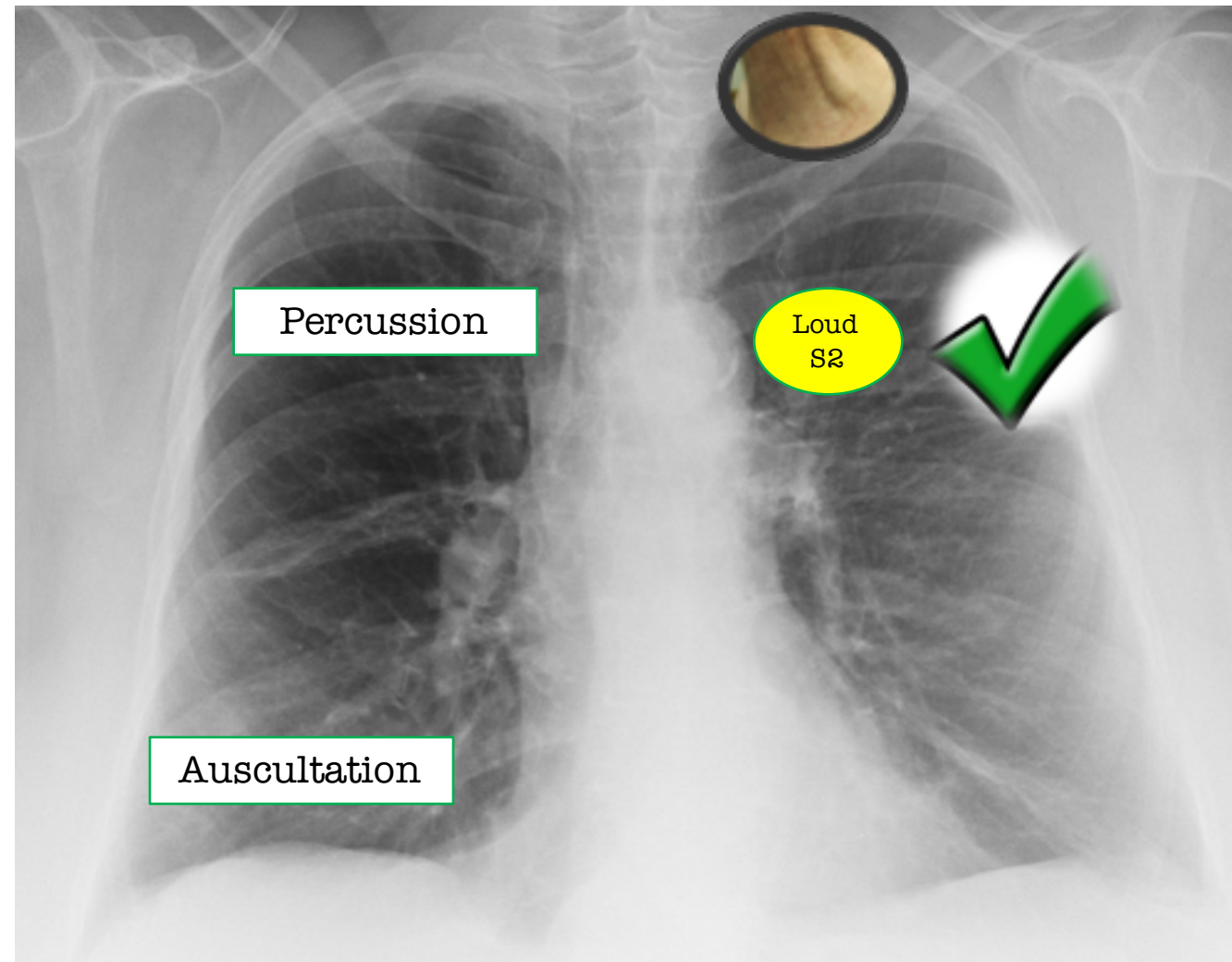


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Pulm HTN: loud S<sub>2</sub> at upper LSB, ↑ JVP

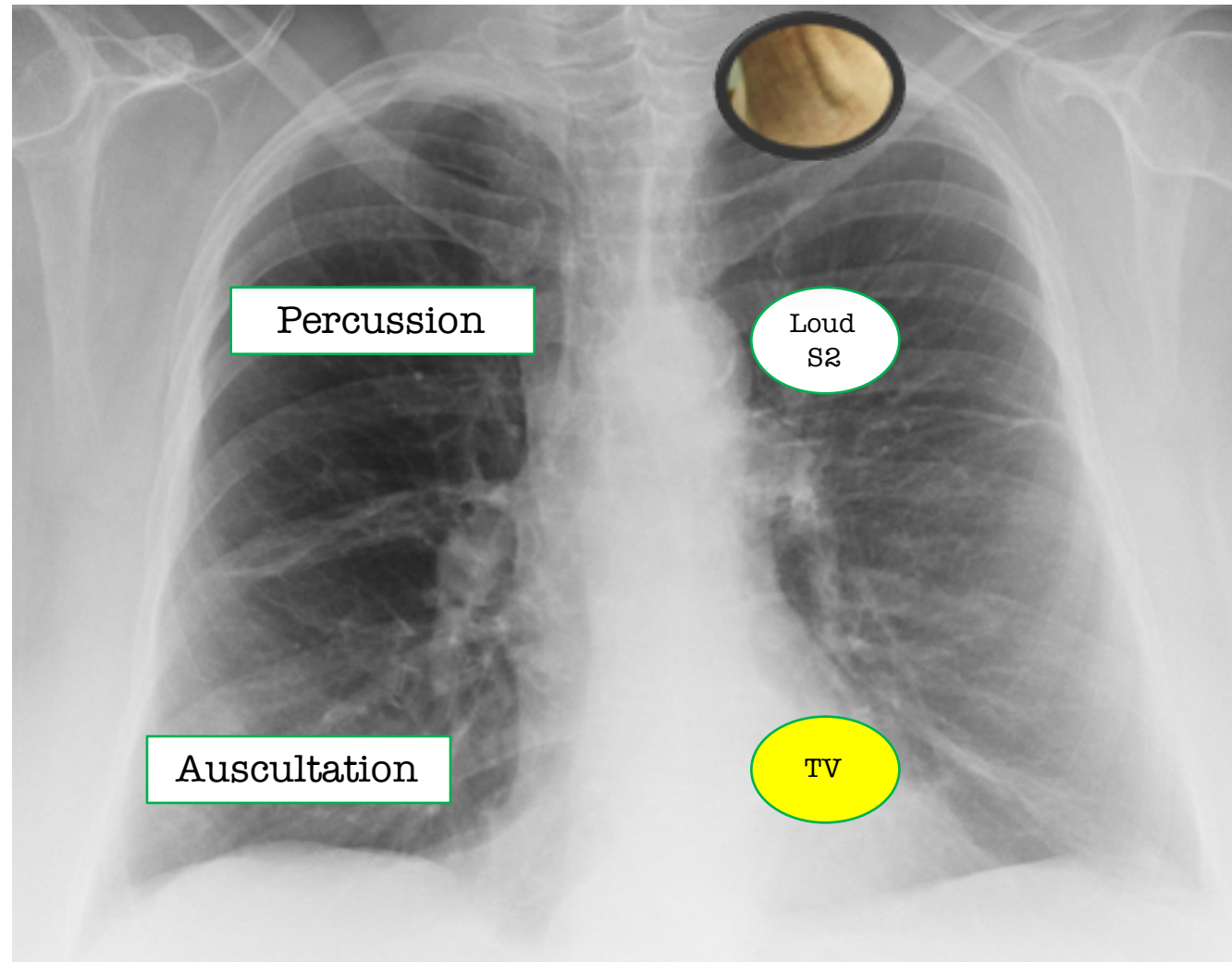


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Tricuspid regurgitation: systolic murmur at LLSB



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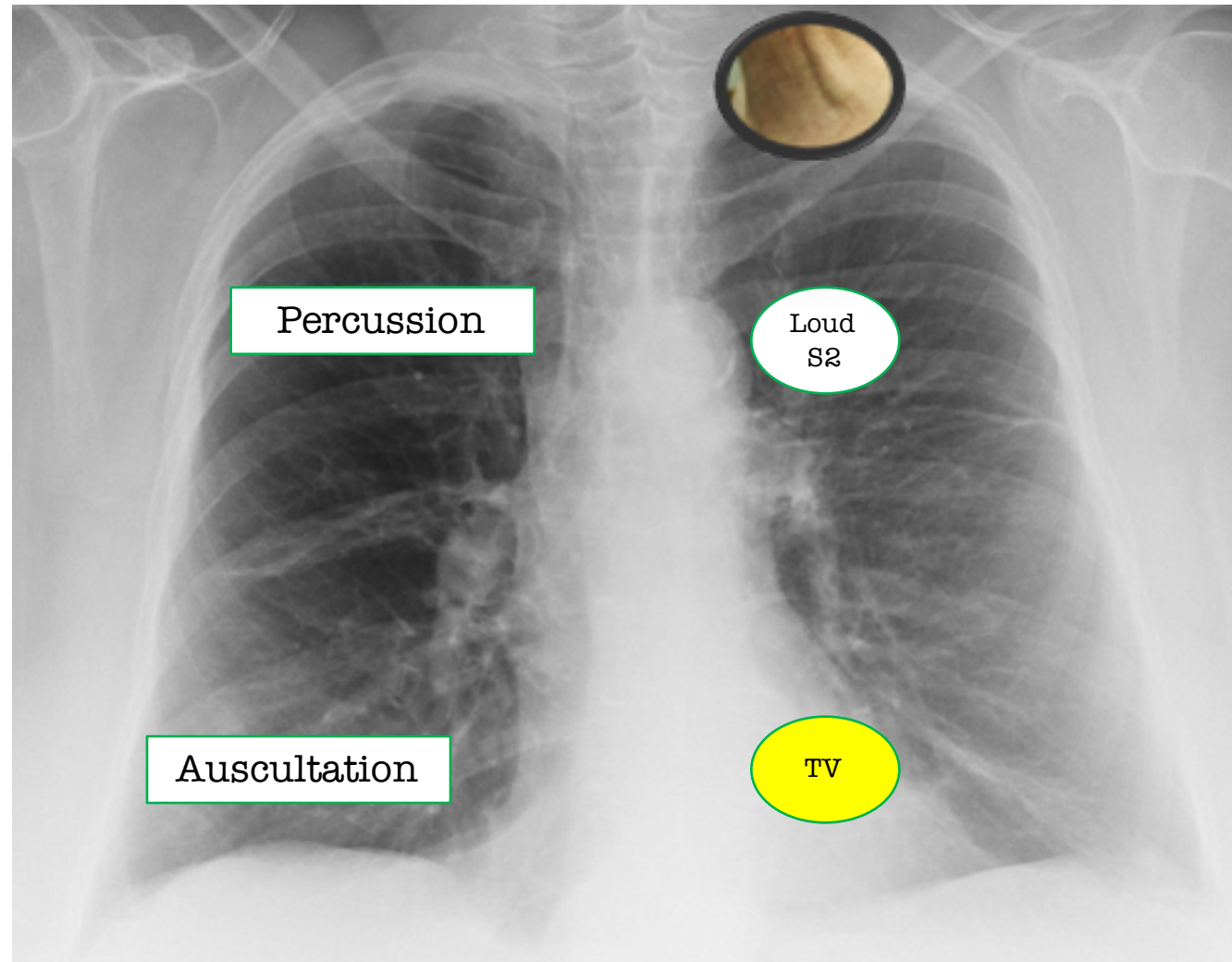
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- Tricuspid regurgitation: systolic murmur at LLSB

TR is frequently reported in the setting of pulmonary HTN.

Etiology: 2° to dilated RV annulus  
Purpose (USMLE): decept



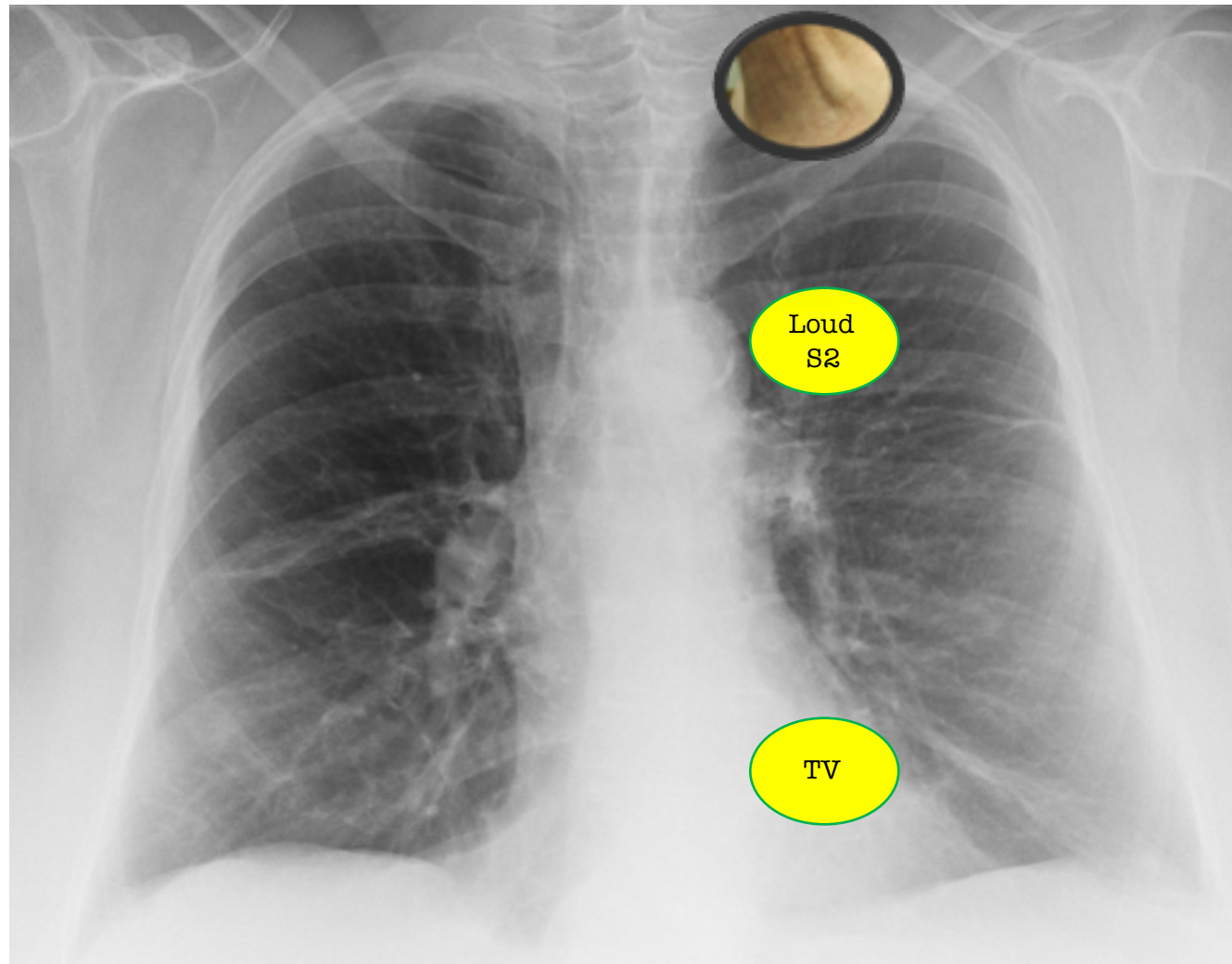
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Which of the following most likely **accounts for the cardiac findings?**

Cardiac Finding: pulm HTN  
PFT → COPD

1. **Hypoxia-induced vasoconstriction**
2. Pulmonary artery obstruction
3. Obliterative arteriopathy
4. Ventricular septal defect
5. Pulmonary venous congestion



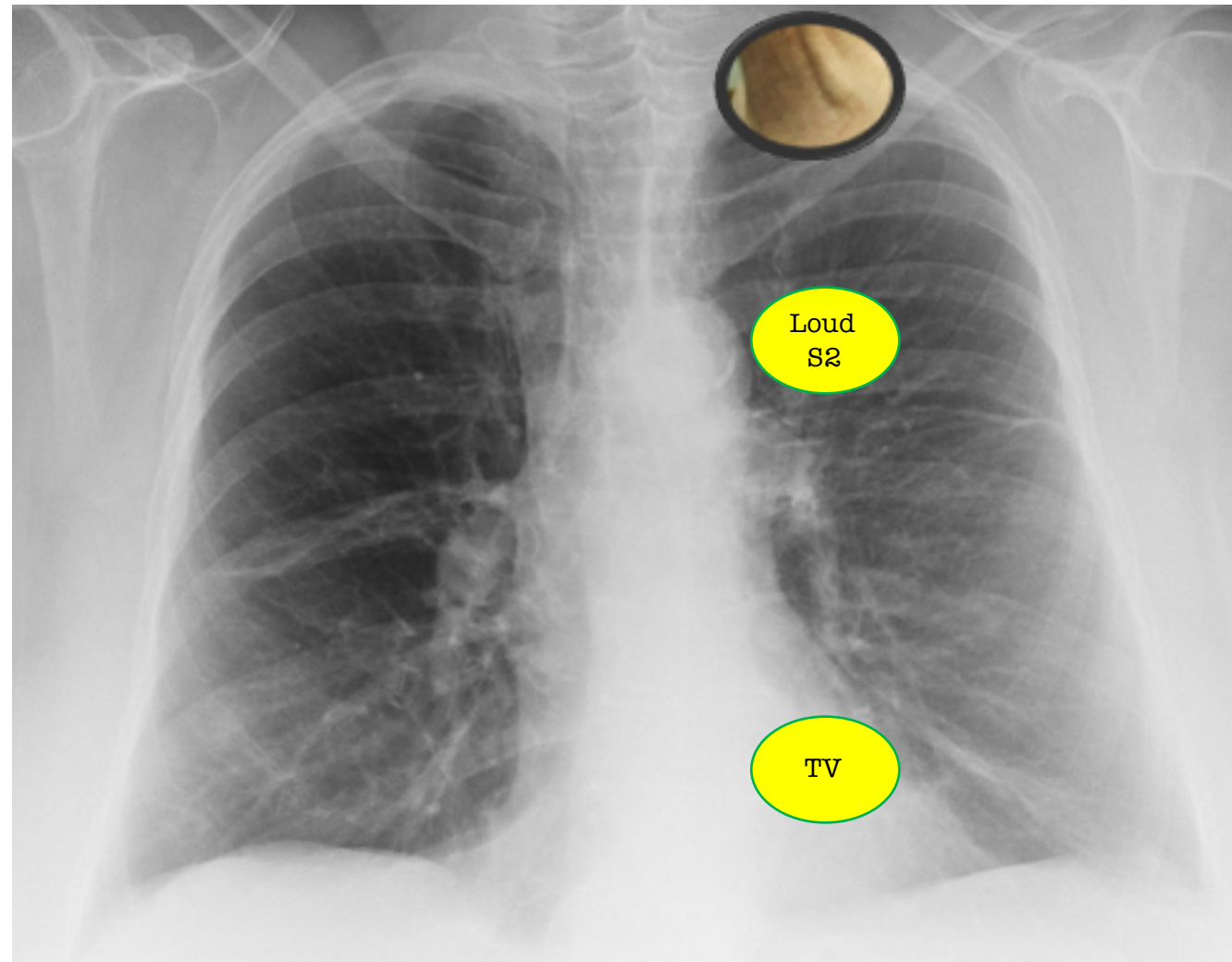
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2. Pulmonary artery obstruction: PE
3. Obliterative arteriopathy: PPH
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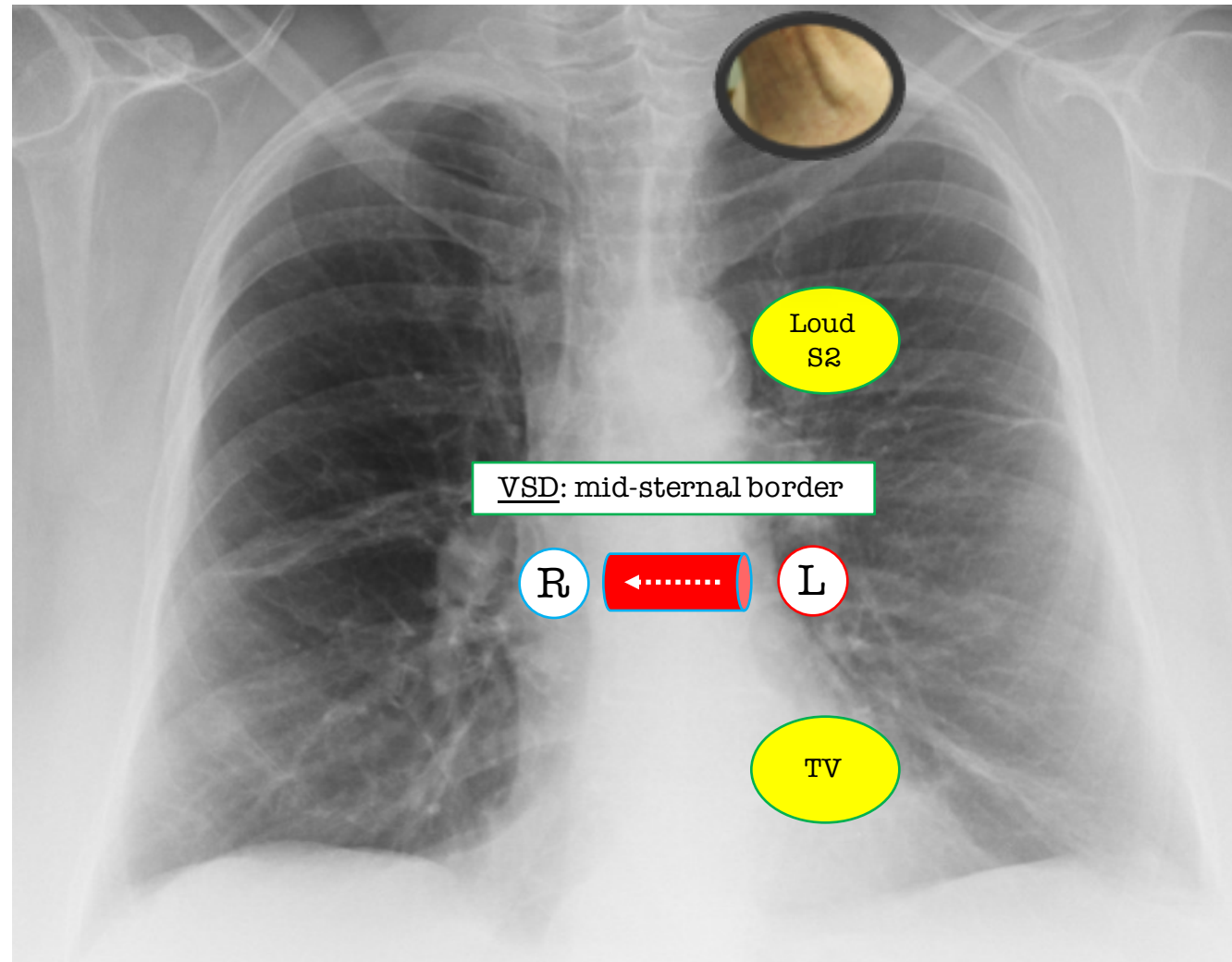
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4. Ventricular septal defect: mid-LSB, holosystolic

L → R shunt can cause pulm HTN with TR and ↑ JVP

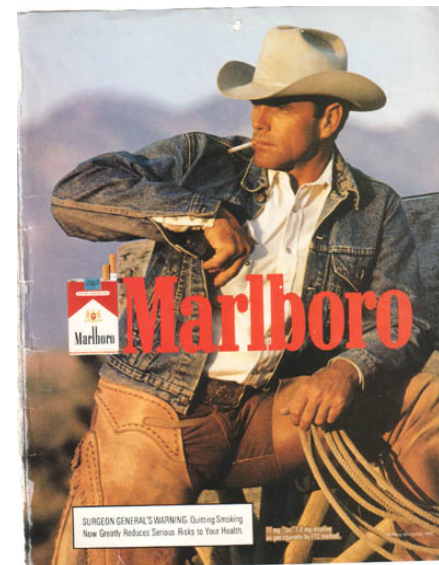




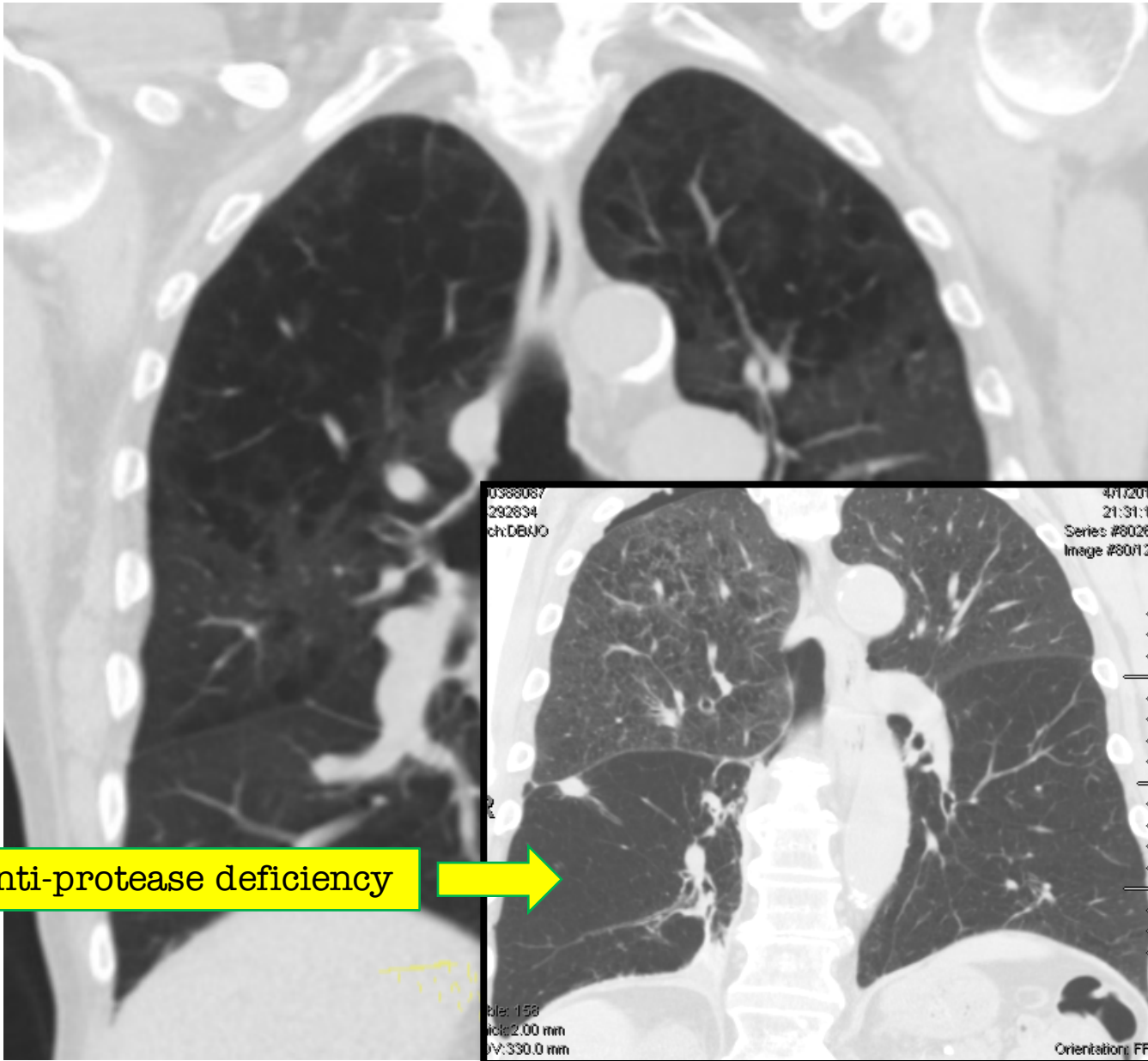
Centrilobular emphysema 2° to tobacco abuse

The same patient is referred for CT scan. Images shown. Which of the following is most likely associated with this imaging abnormality?

- A. Anti-protease deficiency
- B. **Toxin exposure**
- C. Granulomatous destruction
- D. Chronic infectious illness

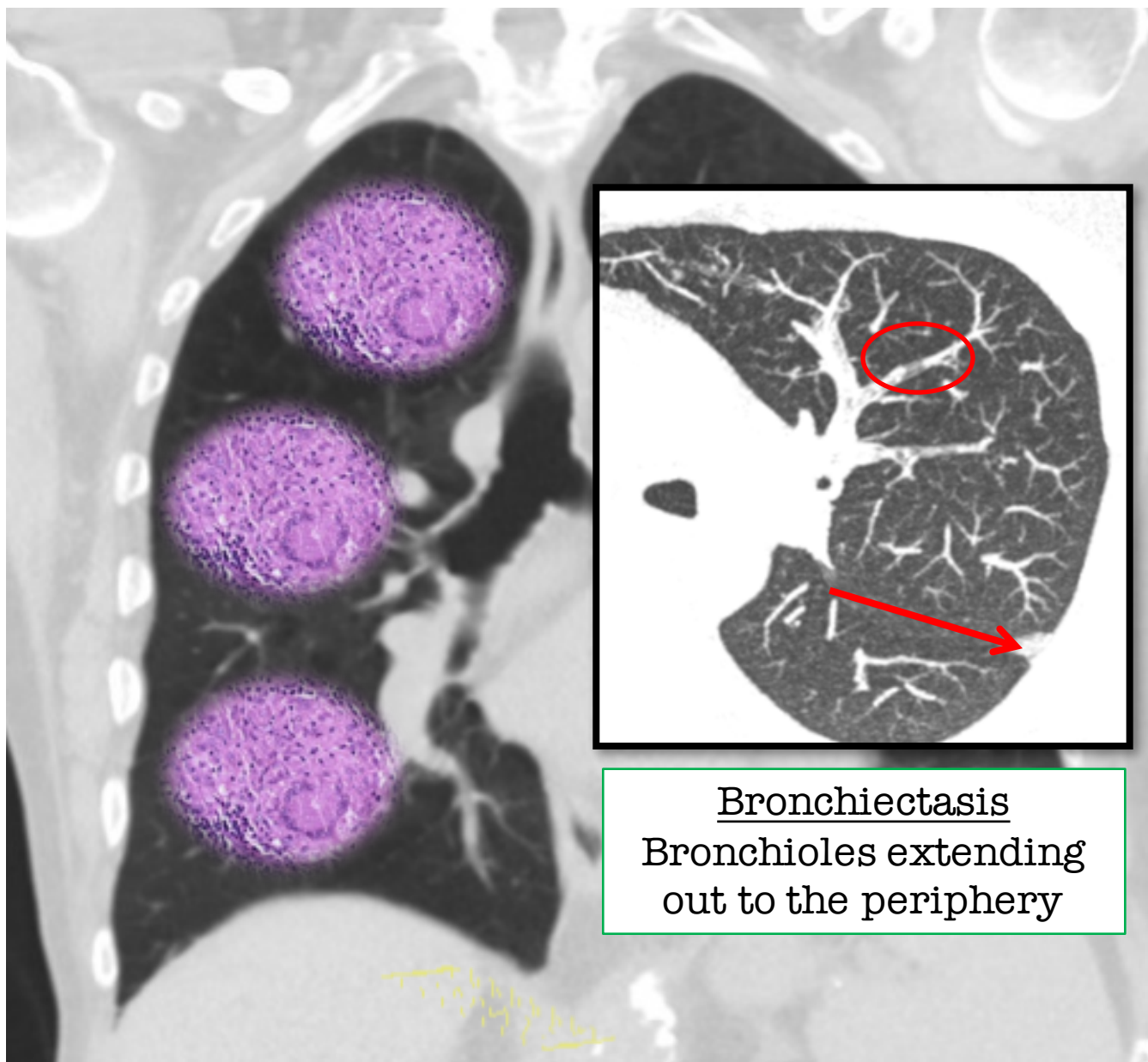






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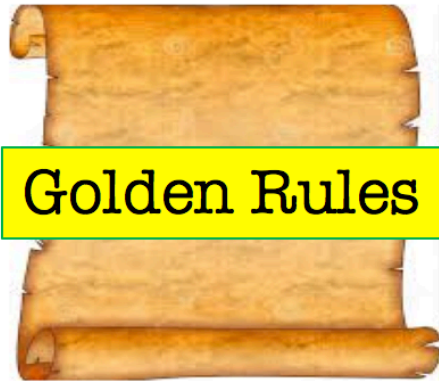


Bronchiectasis  
Bronchioles extending  
out to the periphery

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The Year in Review Series: Case 3. Abnormal CXR  
Case-based NBME review



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Practice Making Quick Associations

Howard J. Sachs, MD  
[www.12DaysinMarch.com](http://www.12DaysinMarch.com)  
E-mail: Howard@12daysinmarch.com