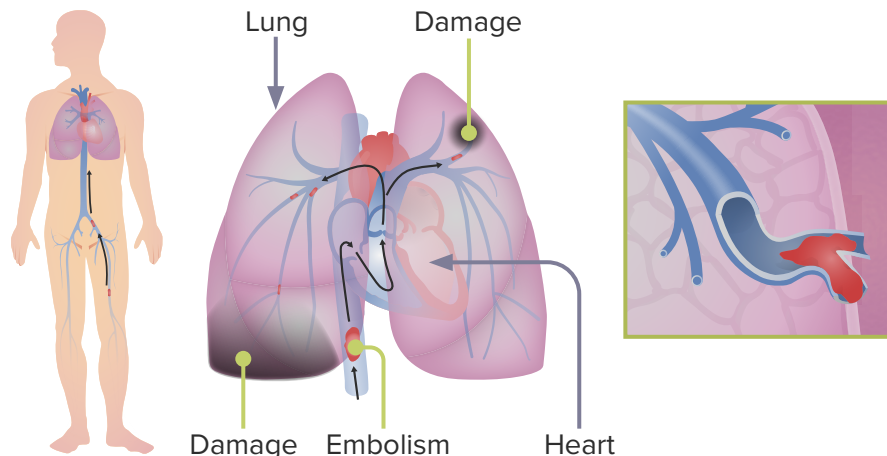


PULMONARY EMBOLISM: SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



Pulmonary Embolism (PE) Is:

- A sudden instance of blockage in one or more of the pulmonary arteries
- Often caused by a clot that travels to the lungs from other parts of the body
- An urgent, potentially life-threatening medical condition that requires hospitalization and intervention



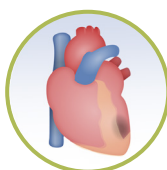
Risk Factors



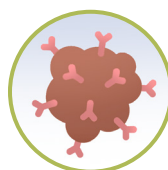
Injury



Surgery



Heart disease



Cancer



Pregnancy



Supplemental estrogen



Smoking



Prolonged immobility



COVID-19

Signs



Sweating



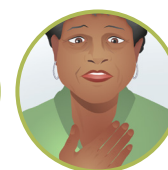
Dizziness



Leg pain



Irregular heartbeat



Shortness of breath

Assessment and Management

- PE mimics several other health conditions and is often overlooked in clients who might have similar symptoms. Thorough assessment and monitoring of sudden changes in signs, intake and output, edema, or breathing patterns is essential.
- If PE is suspected, diagnostic testing often involves imaging, such as a chest X-ray, ultrasound, MRI, pulmonary angiogram, ventilation-perfusion scan (V/Q scan), and bloodwork.
- Most common treatment for PE is anticoagulation medication. Educate patients on use of anticoagulants as they will be on them for an extended period of time.
- Vena cava filter may be considered if patient cannot be anticoagulated.

NOTES

