Pulmonary Embolism Imaging Dr. Mohamad Hasan Alkousy Ass. Professor of Radiology Sohag University



 Chest x-ray is neither sensitive nor specific for pulmonary embolism.

<u>X-Ray signs</u>

- Fleischner sign: enlarged PA
- <u>Hampton hump</u>: peripheral wedge of airspace opacity (infarction)
- <u>Westermark sign</u>: regional oligaemia
- Pleural effusion







Fleischner sign Prominent central PA



Hampton hump Dome-shaped, pleural-based opacity.







Westermark sign

Focal peripheral hyperlucency 2ry to oligaemia Central pulmonary vessels may also be dilated



Pulmonary

CT Angiography





Acute PE



A- Vascular

- 1-Enlarged A. + complete FD + no enhancement.
- 2-Partial FD + marginal luminal contrast filling "railway track sign".
- 3-Emboli may be non-occlusive "polo mint sign" (central FD surrounded by a thin rim of contrast).
- 4-Peripheral FD that forms acute angle with arterial wall.

<u>B-Parenchymal</u> \rightarrow peripheral wedge shaped infarction.

<u>**C-Cardiac**</u> \rightarrow Rt. V. enlargement.



Enlarged totally thrombosed A.





Polo mint sign Central embolus surrounded by contrast



Railway track sign Partial FD surrounded by contrast. Acute pulmonary

Partial FD surrounded by contrast. Acute pulmonary embolus in Lt main PA





Eccentric embolus with acute angles



Railway track" sign, infarction & Rt V strain.





Saddle thrombus











Chronic PE

CTA signs

(A) Direct PA signs

- Complete / partial obstruction
- Eeccentric thrombus (obtuse angle with A. wall)
- Calcified / Recanalized thrombus
- Abrupt narrowing
- Post stenotic dilatation

(B) Pulmonary hypertension signs

- Enlargement of main PAs
- Narrow peripheral PAs in affected segments
- Pulmonary arterial calcification
- <u>RV enlargement</u>/hypertrophy

(C) Systemic collaterlas sign

Enlargement of bronchial artery branches

(D) Parenchymal signs (often non-specific)

- Scars
- Mosaic perfusion pattern
- Focal ground-glass opacities

(E) Pleural effusion



Eccentric thrombus with obtuse angle







Complete occlusion and reduction in size of the artery


Calcified thrombus





Recanalized thrombus





Eccentric thrombus in Rt PA (black arrows)

Abrupt stenosis and recanalization of the Rt interlobar artery (arrowheads). Dilated bronchial arteries in the mediastinum and around the stenosed vessels (white arrows).



Eccentric thrombus & bronchial A. collaterals



Bilateral eccentric ch thrombi with obtuse angles. Post stenotic dilatation (arrowheads) in the posterior segmental A. of the Rt UL



Pulmonary arterial hypertension with pericardial effusion



Rt V strain with passive hepatic congestion



PA wall calcification



Mosiac pattern





Mosaic perfusion pattern & scar



Pitfalls & Mimics



Arterial angulations



Vascular bifurcation



Image noise



Flow-related artifact



Window setting



Streak artifact (from dense contrast in the SVC).





Partial volume artifact



Stair step artifact



Hilar LNs



Mucus plugs



PA leiomyosarcoma



Collapse

Ventilation Perfusion Lung Scan

 It is a scintigraphic examination of the lung that evaluates pulmonary vasculature perfusion and segmental broncho-alveolar tree ventilation.

Technique

- The ventilation scan performed using radio-isotope labelled aerosols like technetium-99m DTPA delivered to the patient through a non-rebreathing mask, with the patient supine. The micro-aerosol particles are small enough to reach the distal tracheobronchial tree and reflect regional ventilation. The patient is then imaged in the upright position in three phases: initial breath, equilibrium and washout.
- The perfusion scan involves IV injection of <u>Tc-99m MAA</u> in supine position. The MAA particles are just small enough to get lodged in the pre-capillary arterioles. A high resolution, large field of view gamma camera is used to image the lungs.

Normal ventilation scan

Even distribution of radionuclide throughout the lung fields.

Pulmonary embolism

Multiple, bilateral perfusion defects.

A <u>ventilation/perfusion (V/Q) scan</u> will show ventilation-perfusion mismatches. A high probability scan is defined as showing two or more unmatched segmental perfusion defects.

V/Q Scan Interpretation		
Result +	Interpretation -	Significance +
Low probability	Perfusion deficit with matched ventilation deficit	< 20% probability of PE
Intermediate probability	Perfusion deficit that corresponds to parenchymal abnormality on chest x-ray	20% - 80% probability of PE
Normal	No perfusion deficit	Excludes pulmonary thromboembolism
High probability	Multiple segmental perfusion deficits with normal ventilation	> 80% probability of PE

Ventilation

Perfusion









Normal perfusion

Ventilation

Perfusion



Perfusion deficit with Lt UL infarction



Rt sided multiple V/Q mismatch deficits


Bilateral V/Q mismatch deficits

Perfusion

Ventilation



Bilateral V/Q mismatch deficits



Lt sided mismatch defect consistent with high probability PE





Normal unenhanced GE MRI































Thank You