

**SAQ 5**

A 23-year-old man with known asthma is brought to ED by ambulance with an acute exacerbation.

a) What 5 features on history would concern you that his attack might be severe

b) What 5 features on examination would suggest he had a severe exacerbation

c) Clinical examination confirms he has a severe episode. List and justify the investigations you would perform. 2 marks

d) List your immediate treatment priorities (5 marks).

**Answer**

- a. Known brittle, ICU admissions, Frequent steroid courses, significant co-morbidities, known poor compliance
  
- b. Altered LOC, reduced RR, accessory muscle use, quiet chest, signs pneumothorax, signs coinfection, cardiovascular compromise
  
- c. CXR, coinfection/pneumothorax, ABG evidence of resp failure (acidosis with normocarbida -hypercarbida)

- d. Supplemental O<sub>2</sub> if Sat <93%

Optimise patient position

Bronchodilator therapy

Salbutamol continuous nebs, IV boluses and/or infusion

Ipratropium bromide nebs