

SAQ 8

A 60 yr old female presents to your Emergency Department with a one-day history of fever and right arm discomfort. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

Her vital signs are:

HR 95 bpm
BP 120 / 75
Temp 38.5 °C

a. Describe the clinical image (4 Marks)

- *Absent right breast / Mastectomy*
- *Erythematous streak right arm - distal cubital fossa to axilla*
- *Discolouration of right chest wall & neck / Radiotherapy changes*
- *Pustules in axilla / lateral scar*
- *Nil iv cannula in-situ / Nil port noted on right chest wall*
- *Nil monitoring / therapy in-situ*
- *Appears alert*

b. List the differentials for this patient's presentation (5 Marks)

- *Febrile neutropenia*
- *Ascending lymphangitis / right upper limb cellulitis*
- *Thrombophelbitis*
- *Chest wall cellulitis*
- *Upper limb DVT*
- *Line infection - although non-visualised in image*
- *Fever from other source e.g. UTI / pneumonia / Intra-abdominal*

Question adapted from FACEM VAQ question 2010.2.7

Clinical image taken from Life in the Fast Lane Clinical Quiz 23 page

<http://lifeinthefastlane.com/clinical-quiz-023/>