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THE ROLE OF COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN IN THE EVALUATION OF PLEURAL EFFUSION :

❖ Introduction:-

Pleural effusion is a condition where excess fluid accumulates in the pleural space, which is the space between the lungs and the chest wall. This can occur due to various reasons, such as infections, heart failure, cancer, or liver disease. When pleural effusion occurs bilaterally, affecting both sides of the chest, it is referred to as bilateral pleural effusion or plural effusion. This condition can cause difficulty breathing, chest pain, and other symptoms, and it requires proper diagnosis and treatment to alleviate the underlying cause of the effusion. Pleural effusion can be classified into two types: transudative and exudative

1. Transudative pleural effusion: occurs when fluid leaks from blood vessels into the pleural space due to changes in the pressure gradient
2. Exudative plural effusion: occurs due to inflammation and increased permeability of the blood vessels.

○ Risk factors: for pleural effusion may include-

Smoking and drinking alcohol, as these can cause heart, lung and liver disease, which can lead to pleural effusion.

Different types of fluid can accumulate in the pleural space, causing a condition called pleural effusion. Some of the types of fluid that can accumulate in the pleural space include:(A)Transudative fluid, (B) Exudative fluid ,(C) Blood ,(D) Chyle ,(E) Pus ,(F) Air ,the specific type of fluid that accumulates in the pleural space can give important clues to the underlying cause of the effusion, and diagnosis and treatment will depend on identifying the type and cause of the fluid accumulation.

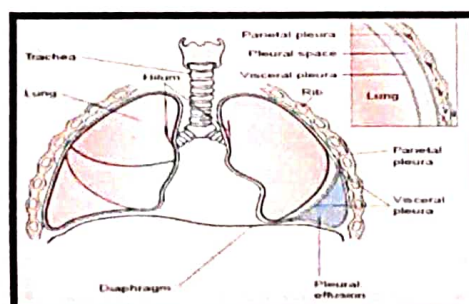


Fig 1: Pleural effusion