

Imaging Findings	Cause
Pulmonary Structures	
XR, CT: air in the pleural space or mediastinum	Pneumothorax or pneumomediastinum
XR, CT: consolidation and/or pleural effusion	Pneumonia
XR, CT: lung mass with possible “upstream” pneumonia with consolidation; additional pulmonary nodules/masses, lymphadenopathy, or bone lesions from metastatic deposit.	Lung cancer – primary
XR, CT: Large mass of the pleura with associated effusion fluid. Calcified pleural plaque.	Mesothelioma
Usually normal and not done except for excluding pneumonia, pneumothorax, or pulmonary collapse. XR, CT: hyperinflation; increased peribronchial markings,	Asthma
XR, CT: Pleural thickening or effusion.	Pleuritis
Cardiovascular Structures	
XR, CT: Findings of accompanying heart failure including pulmonary consolidation or ground-glass opacity, pleural effusions, large heart and pulmonary arteries. Myo: abnormal perfusion study with reversible decreased tracer on the stress component of the exam. CTA: calcified/narrowed vessels.	Myocardial ischemia/infarction
XR, CT: peripheral wedge-shaped lung opacity (“Hampton’s hump”) with infarction; pleural effusion; CT: filling defects in the arterial tree; VQ scan: ventilation perfusion mismatches.	Pulmonary embolism
XR, CT: dilated, tortuous aorta distorting the trachea.	Thoracic aortic aneurysm
XR: enlarged heart with large effusions; CT: pericardial thickening and/or effusion fluid.	Pericarditis
XR, CT: prominent ascending aorta; calcification of the aortic valve	Aortic stenosis
CT: abnormal mitral valve; dilated left atrium from associated regurgitation.	Prolapsed mitral valve
Other Structures	
No direct findings; XR, CT may show a hiatal hernia.	GERD
XR, CT: air in the mediastinum; extravasated oral contrast.	Esophageal rupture
CT: poor definition of pancreas margins; peri-pancreatic fat stranding; swelling of the pancreas	Pancreatitis
XR, CT: Discontinuity of bone cortex; abnormal angulation.	Fracture
XR, CT: disc narrowing and osteophytic spurring; CT, MR: abnormal disc contour with compression of nerve roots	Disc disease
XR, CT: discontinuity of bone cortex; lucency or sclerosis of bone; MR: replacement of marrow fat signal with fluid signal	Bone metastatic deposit

Dictation Template with Prompts for Chest Radiograph Performed for Chest Pain

TWO VIEW CHEST PLAIN FILM EXAMINATION

INDICATION: Chest pain.

COMPARISON: [Check priors to see if following a known lesion.]

TECHNIQUE: PA and lateral chest plain film examination.

Pulmonary structures: [Free air in the pleural space or mediastinum (pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum). Consolidation with or without pleural effusion (pneumonia). Lung mass with or without “upstream” consolidation (lung cancer). Large pleural mass (mesothelioma). Pleural effusion (pleuritis).]

Cardiovascular structures: [Pulmonary consolidation or ground glass opacity, septal lines, cardiomegaly and/or prominent pulmonary vessels (congestive heart failure with or without myocardial ischemia). Dilated thoracic aorta (thoracic aortic aneurysm). Enlarged heart (pericardial effusion from pericarditis).]

Other visualized structures: [Hiatal hernia (associated with gastro-esophageal reflux disease). Air in the mediastinum (esophageal rupture). Discontinuous rib, sterna, or vertebral cortex (fracture with or without associated tumor). Wedged vertebral body (compression fracture). Disc narrowing and osteophyte formation (degenerative disc disease). Abnormal bone density/texture with or without fracture (metastatic deposit).]

IMPRESSION: []

DICTIONARY TEMPLATE WITH PROMPTS FOR CHEST CT PERFORMED FOR CHEST PAIN

CT CHEST WITH CONTRAST

INDICATION: Chest pain.

COMPARISON: [Check priors to see if following a known lesion.]

TECHNIQUE: []

Pulmonary structures:

Lungs: [Consolidation (pneumonia). Mass with or without “upstream” consolidation (lung cancer).]

Tracheobronchial tree: []

Pleura and pleural space: [Free air in the pleural space (pneumothorax). Pleural effusion (pneumonia, pleuritis, or malignancy). Large pleural mass (mesothelioma).]

Cardiovascular structures:

Heart: [Generalized cardiomegaly (with pulmonary edema, septal lines, and pleural effusions from congestive heart failure in myocardial ischemia). Right heart enlargement (with pulmonary emboli and right heart failure). Left atrial enlargement (mitral valve insufficiency with prolapsed). Pericardial thickening or fluid (pericarditis).]

Thoracic aorta and branches: [Prominent ascending aorta (aortic aneurysm). Calcification along the coronary arteries (risk factor for myocardial ischemia).]

Pulmonary arteries: [Filling defects (pulmonary emboli).]

Other structures:

Mediastinal and hilar lymph nodes: [Air in the mediastinum (esophageal rupture).]

Musculoskeletal structures: [Discontinuous cortex along a rib or vertebral body or the sternum (fracture). Wedged vertebral body (compression fracture). Disc narrowing and osteophyte formation (degenerative disc disease). Abnormal bone density/texture with or without fracture (metastatic deposit).]

Visualized neck and chest wall: []

Visualized abdomen and esophagus: [Hiatal hernia (associated with gastr-esophageal reflux disease). Poor definition of pancreatic margins and peripancreatic fat stranding (pancreatitis).]

IMPRESSION: []