Objectives October 15, 2019

**Asthma**

1. Define asthma based on pathophysiology and spirometry including methacholine challenge.
2. Describe the different stages of asthma severity (intermittent and persistent).
3. Know the recommended treatments for each stage of asthma severity and describe the step-up and step-down approach to management.
4. Describe the diagnosis and management strategy of asthma exacerbation.

**Pleural Effusions**

1. Describe the symptoms and physical exam findings of a pleural effusion.
2. Describe the indications for thoracentesis.
3. Describe the appropriate tests to order to evaluate pleural fluid according to Light’s criteria, 2-test and 3-test rule. Know how to determine if the fluid is transudative or exudative.
4. Describe the differential for transudative effusions and describe the evaluation that can help determine when a transudative effusion is falsely exudative (especially after diuretics have been given.)
5. Describe the differential for exudative effusions. Know the indications for chest tube drainage of exudative pleural effusions.

**PFT interpretation**

1. List the three factors that must be confirmed before PFTs can be reliably interpreted.
2. Describe the six steps of interpretation of PFTs and understand their values in order to make a diagnosis.