

“Pleural effusion is fluid collection outside the lungs due to disease. It needs urgent evaluation for further diagnosis and proper treatment.”



CHEST CARE CLINIC, KHARGHAR

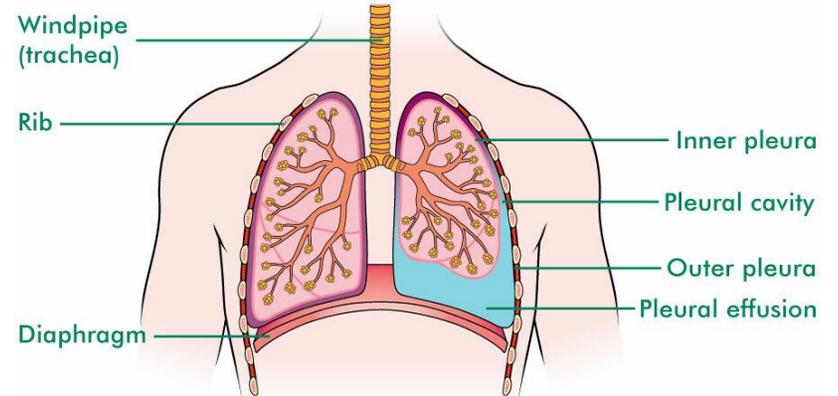
Dr. VISHAL GUPTA- CHEST SPECIALIST
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TIMINGS: MON TO SAT , 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM AND
5:00 PM TO TO 9:00 PM. SUNDAY CLOSED

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WHAT IS PLEURAL EFFUSION?



CHEST CARE CLINIC, KHARGHAR.

THIS INFORMATION IS INTENDED FOR PATIENT EDUCATION ONLY.

Pleural effusion is a collection of excess fluid in the space between the two layers of pleura. This can compress the lung and may cause shortness of breath. A pleural effusion is usually the result of damage to the pleural membrane and may be due to many disease processes – your doctor will discuss the specific cause of your effusion with you. Treatment involves draining the excess fluid from the pleural space via a needle or a thin chest drain/tube which is inserted through the chest wall into the space between the two layers of pleura. This enables the excess fluid to drain and usually stays in place until the fluid has drained and the lung has re-expanded. (This is decided by chest x-ray or sometimes a scan is needed).

SYMPTOMS OF PULMONARY EMBOLISM / DVT.

Symptoms of the pleural effusion include the

1. Breathing difficulty
2. Cough
3. Chest pain
4. Fever for infections
5. Heaviness on the chest
6. Inability to lie down flat on the bed.

Other nonspecific symptoms related to underlying disease include the weight loss / fatigue / change in voice / reduced appetite.

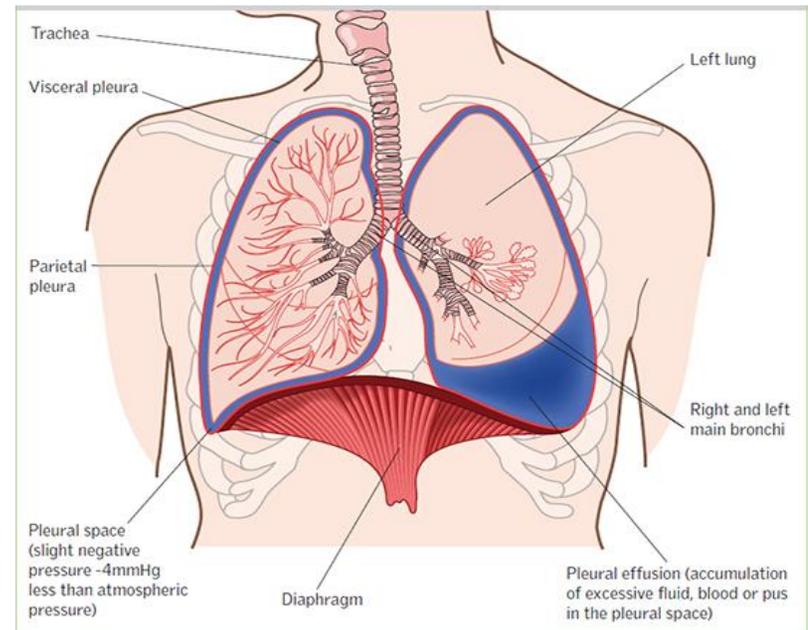
What are the costs of testing for pleural effusion?

Considering that the procedure is done in an indoor / hospital setting, it will vary among different hospitals. Please discuss this with the doctor / hospital billing section.

What can be done?

Tests usually done include an X Ray Chest CT scan, complete blood evaluation, Ultrasound evaluation of abdomen / chest, Pleural tapping and evaluating the fluid for different diseases. Please read through the leaflet on Pleural tapping and thoracoscopy for further information on how to evaluate the patient with such diseases.

Mechanism of DVT and Pulmonary Embolism.



What am I to expect after tests?

The tests results may suggest some problems either of infection or cancers or may be of an uncertain cause. This needs further evaluation and thus pleural tapping may be recommended. This may occur in the ultrasound guidance or as an outpatient procedure depending on initial ultrasound evaluation. The reports of the pleural fluid may help understand the disease process and final medical management.