

Oxygen Therapy in Sideline Emergencies

R. Warne Fitch, MD

Associate Professor Emergency Medicine

Associate Professor Orthopedics

Vanderbilt Head Team Physician

February 19, 2023

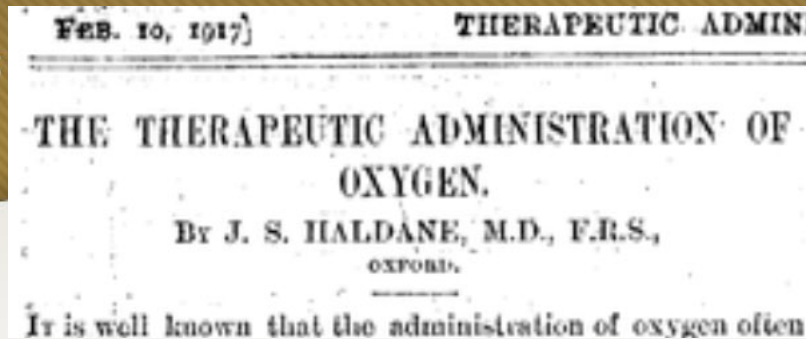
- I have no financial disclosures

Oxygen

- Bottom line: We need oxygen to survive
- Required for normal cellular metabolism
- Without oxygen brain damage begins after only 4 min and death can occurs within 10 min

What is Oxygen Therapy?

- Use of supplemental oxygen as medical treatment
- Room Air 21% FiO₂
- Oxygen therapy can increase FiO₂ to 100%



- 1890 used by Dr. Blodgett for pneumonia pt
- 1917 Dr.Haldane published landmark article
- Most common hospital treatment in the developed world
- Acute indication is hypoxemia
 - low blood oxygen levels
 - SaO₂ (ABG)
 - SpO₂ noninvasive (pulse ox)

Pulse Oximeter

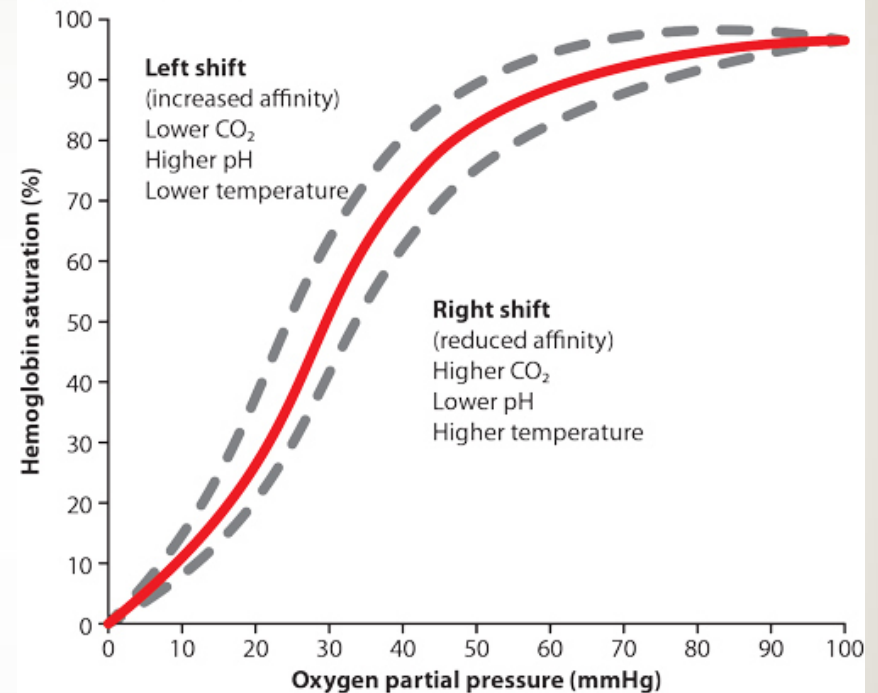
- Portable device used to measure O₂ Saturation
- Measures the amount of light absorbed by oxygen carrying hemoglobin in the red blood cells SpO₂



Oxyhemoglobin Dissociation Curve

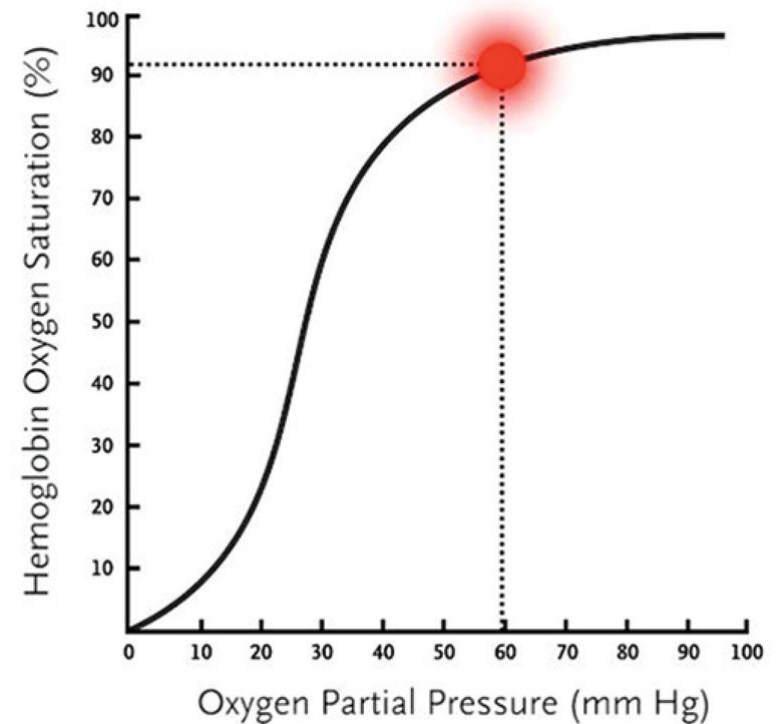
- O₂ transported bound to Hgb
- Defines the point oxygen can be released from hemoglobin to be used by cells

Figure 3: Oxyhemoglobin dissociation curve



Oxygen-Hemoglobin Dissociation Curve

- $\text{PaO}_2 > 60\text{mmHg}$ O_2 sat does not change much
- $\text{PaO}_2 < 60\text{mmHg}$ slope of curve becomes steeper reflecting sharp decrease in O_2 saturation and insufficient delivery to tissues



Causes of Hypoxemia

- Several factors needed to continuously supply cells and tissues in body with O₂
- Must be enough O₂ in air you are breathing
- Lungs must be able to inhale O₂ and exhale CO₂
- Must be able to circulate oxygenated blood from lungs to tissues

Hypoxemia Causes

- Ventilation-Perfusion (V/Q) mismatch
- Diffusion Impairment
- Hypoventilation
- Low environmental oxygen
- Right to left shunting

Hypoxemia Signs and Symptoms

- Tachypnea
- Tachycardia
- Cyanosis
- Grunting
- Nasal flaring
- Retractions
- Wheezing
- Stridor
- Confusion/AMS
- Dizziness
- Chest pain
- Diaphoresis



Signs of impending respiratory failure

- Altered mental status
- 2-3 word sentences
- Severe dyspnea
- Cyanosis
- Low respiratory rate, volume, fatigue

What do we need to provide Oxygen Therapy?

Equipment needed

- Portable O2 tanks
- Oxygen regulator
- Key
- Flow meter
- Connector tree
- Tubing
- A delivery device



Portable O₂ Tanks



- Several different sizes
- Want convenience of portability, but higher flow rates will deplete the tanks quickly

O2 regulator

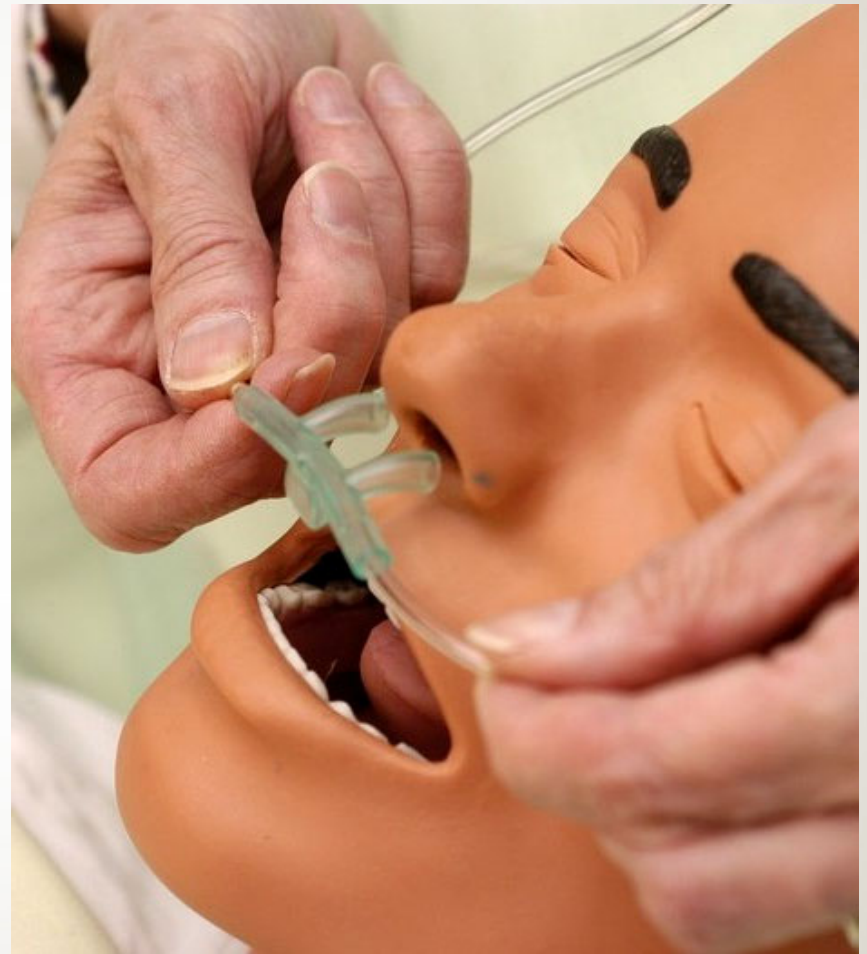
- Check parts and pressure routinely pre/post use



Delivery Devices

Nasal Cannula

- Simple
- Flow rate 1-6 L/min
- FiO₂ levels 24-44%
- Can be considered in awake, more stable pts
- Advantages:
 - easy to use, pt can talk
- Disadvantages:
 - Not as effective if blocked nostrils, mouth breathing



Simple facemask

- Fits over mouth and nose
- Contains exhalation ports through which patient exhales CO₂
- Flow minimum 6-10L
- Provides moderate O₂ concentrations FiO₂ 35-50%



Non-rebreather facemask

- Mask attached to a reservoir bag
- Series of one-way valves on exhalation ports
- Patient breathes in through reservoir bag and exhales CO₂ out exhalation ports
- Flow rate 10-15L/min
- Delivers 60-80% FiO₂



Monitor Your Treatment

- Pulse Ox
- Waveform
- Patient:
 - Comfort
 - Symptoms
 - Vitals



Indication for Use of Airway Management

1. Failure to oxygenate
2. Failure to ventilate
3. Failure to maintain a patent airway

Bag Valve Mask

- Used in emergency situations for respiratory arrest or respiratory failure
- Assists with ventilation and oxygenation
- Can be attached to O₂ source
- At 15L/min provided FiO₂ 100%



Bag Valve Mask

Single Rescuer



Two Rescuer



Figure 2. The two-handed C-E technique.

Airway Adjuncts

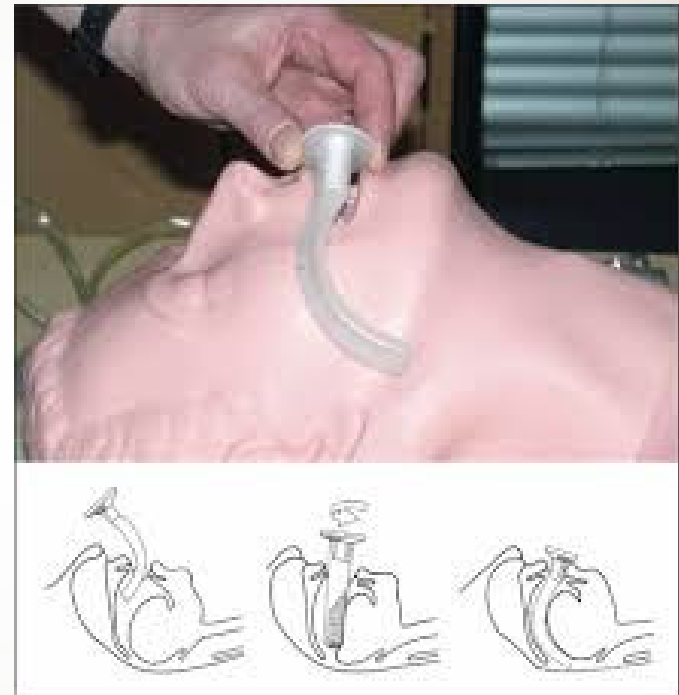
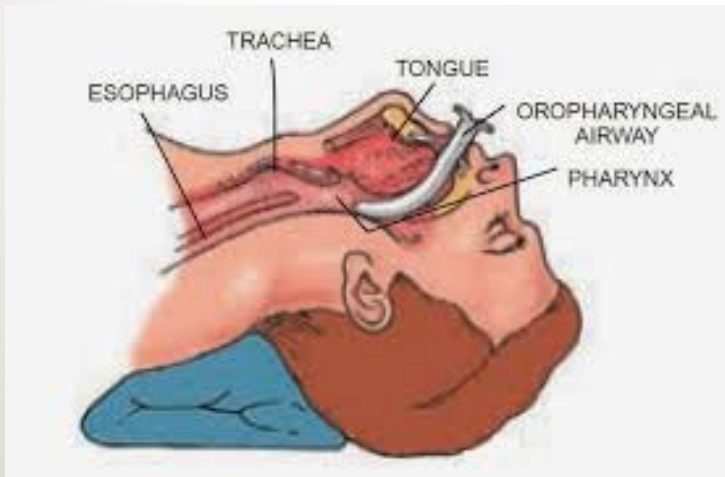
Nasal pharyngeal

- Inserted into nasal passage down into posterior pharynx
- Helps minimize tongue obstruction
- Can be used in awake patient
- Should not be used in facial trauma



Airway Adjuncts

- Oropharyngeal Airway
- Helps keep tongue out of the way
- Patient cannot have a gag reflex



Suction

- Should be large bore Yankauer
- Battery powered
- Worth having a backup
 - Suction and battery



Scenarios

Tired Athletes



- Limited data
- Several studies show no benefit
- Few studies show may increase time to exhaustion
- May decrease recovery to normal O₂ saturation 49 sec to 36 sec in rowers

Athletes at High Altitude

Morteza Khodaei, MD, MPH,*[†] Heather L. Grothe, MD,[†] Jonathan H. Seyfert, MD,[†] and Karin VanBaak, MD[†]

Blood Oxygen Saturation By Altitude

Altitude (feet)	Arterial O ₂ Saturation Without Supplemental O ₂	Atmospheric Pressure (mmHg)
0	96%	760
5,000	95%	632
7,500	93%	575
10,000	89%	523
12,500	87%	474
14,000	83%	446
16,500	77%	403
20,000	65%	349
25,000	Below 60%	282

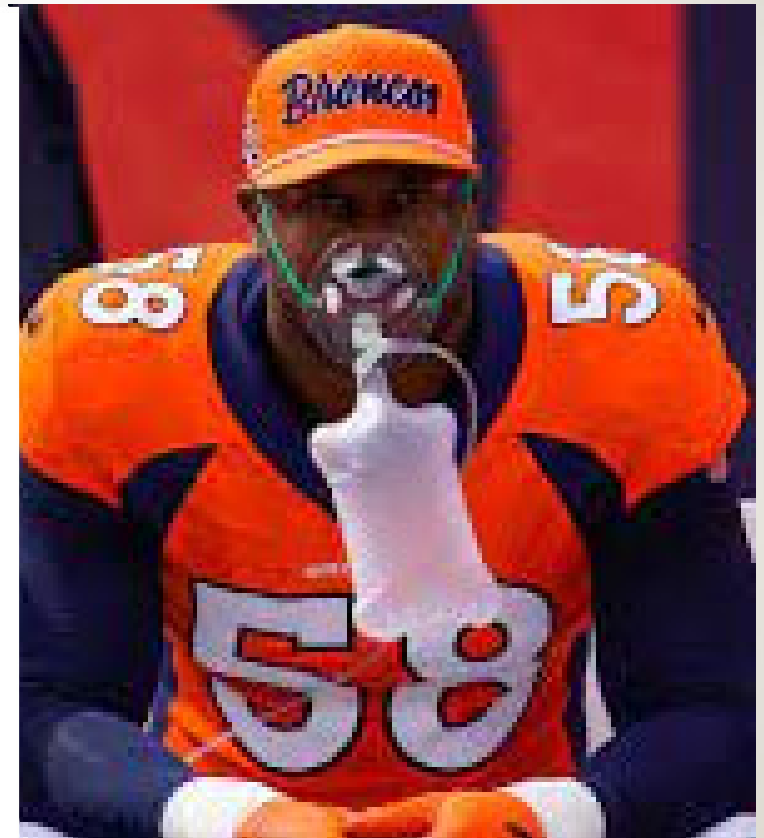
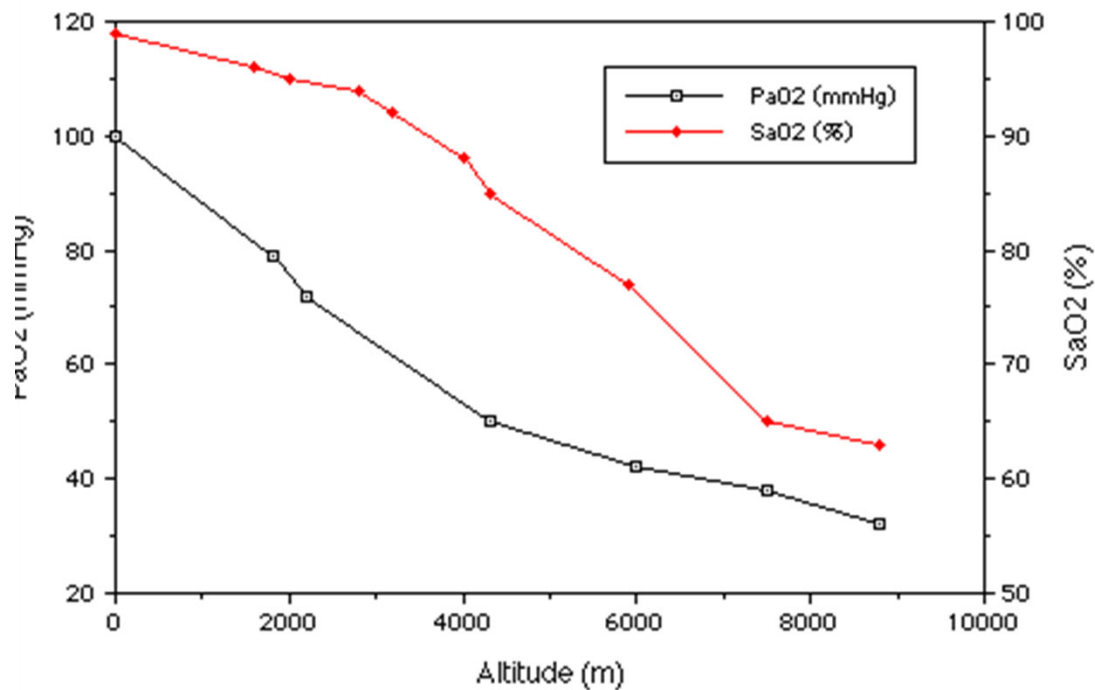
*The Pilot: An Air Breathing Mammal," Mehler, Stanley R. MD, Human Factors Bulletin, Flight Safety Foundation, 1981.



Athletes at High Altitude

Morteza Khodaei, MD, MPH,^{*†} Heather L. Grothe, MD,[†] Jonathan H. Seyfert, MD,[†] and Karin VanBaak, MD[†]

Oxygen Saturations at Altitude

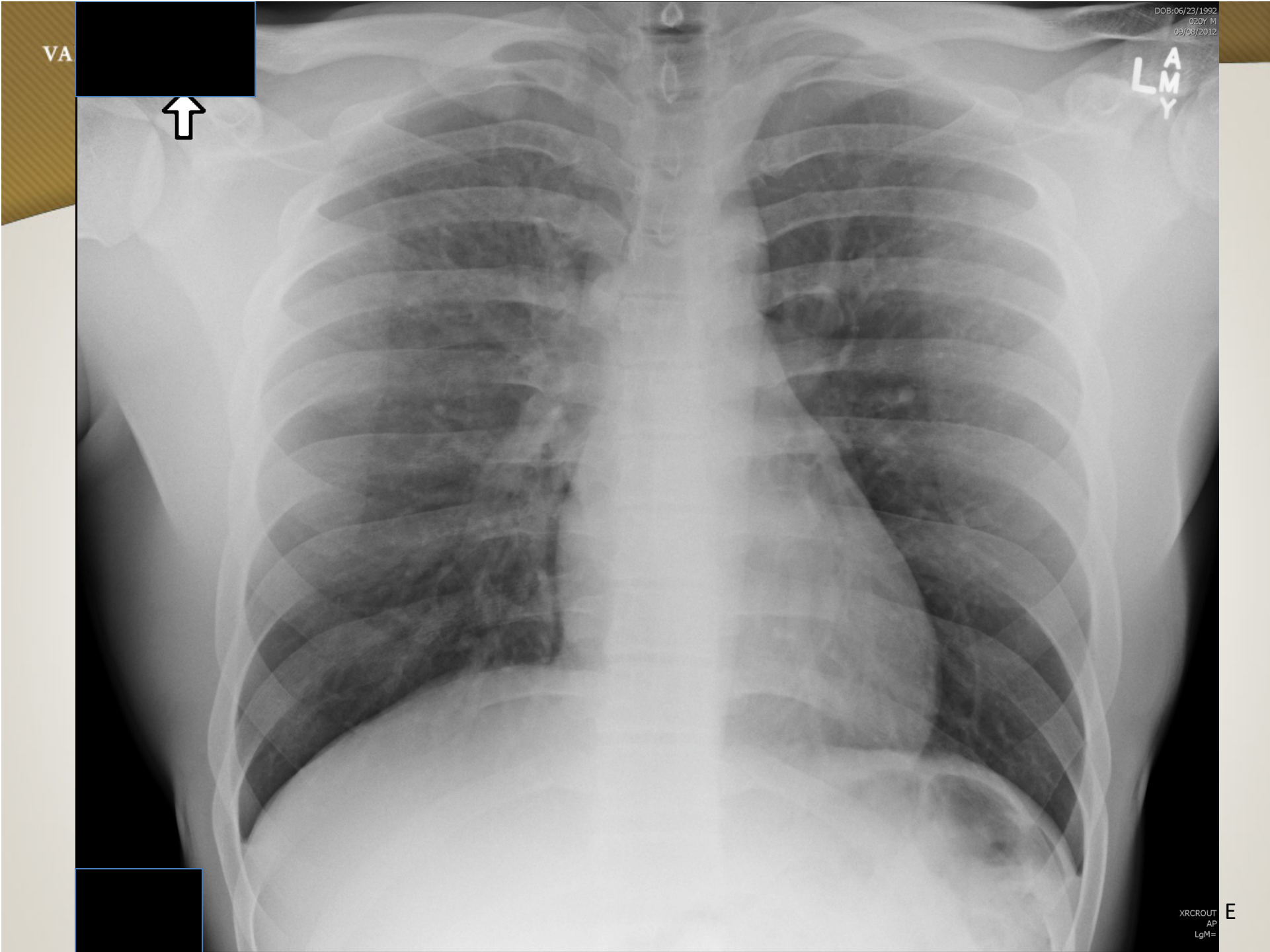


Sickle Trait Athletes

- Athletes with sickle cell trait can have cells sickle presenting with symptoms
- Risks include:
 - Strenuous exercise
 - Severe dehydration
 - High altitude
- Treatment: IVF, O₂ supplementation

Northwestern vs Vanderbilt

- 4th quarter
- 20 yo health FB player falls after missed tackle and coughs up blood
- c/o SOB
- Multiple rounds of hemoptysis
- Pulse Ox 92%



VA



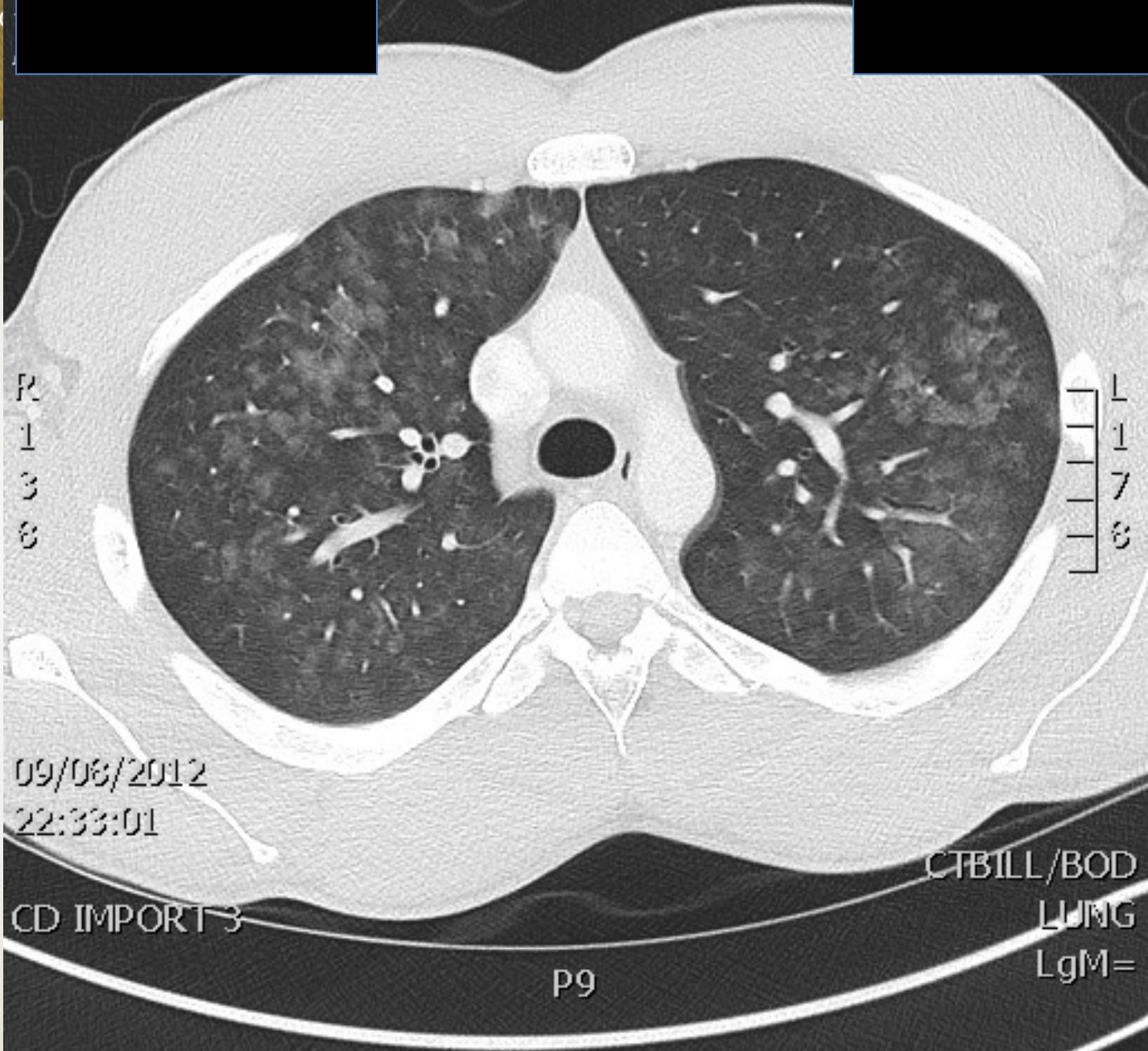
AMY

DOB: 06/23/1992
030Y M
09/03/2012

XRCROUT
AP
LgM=

E

A307



R
1
3
8

L
1
7
8

09/08/2012
22:33:01

CD IMPORT 3

p9

CTBILL/BOD
LUNG
LgM=

Cardiac Arrest

- Get on the chest!
- Minimize time off compressions!
- BLS/ACLS
 - 30:2 with BVM 15L/min
 - Some discussion about compression only CPR...
- If advanced supraglottic or ETT in place
 - 10 breaths/min with continuous chest compressions
 - FiO₂ 100%

Summary

- Oxygen therapy is a critical treatment in emergencies
- Oxygen equipment should be available including monitoring devices
- Medical staff should practice delivery set up and options with EAP training
- There are no absolute contraindications for administration of supplemental oxygen