

Spontaneous Pneumothorax: Quick Reference Guide

Spontaneous pneumothorax that occurs in the absence of thoracic trauma is classified as primary or secondary:

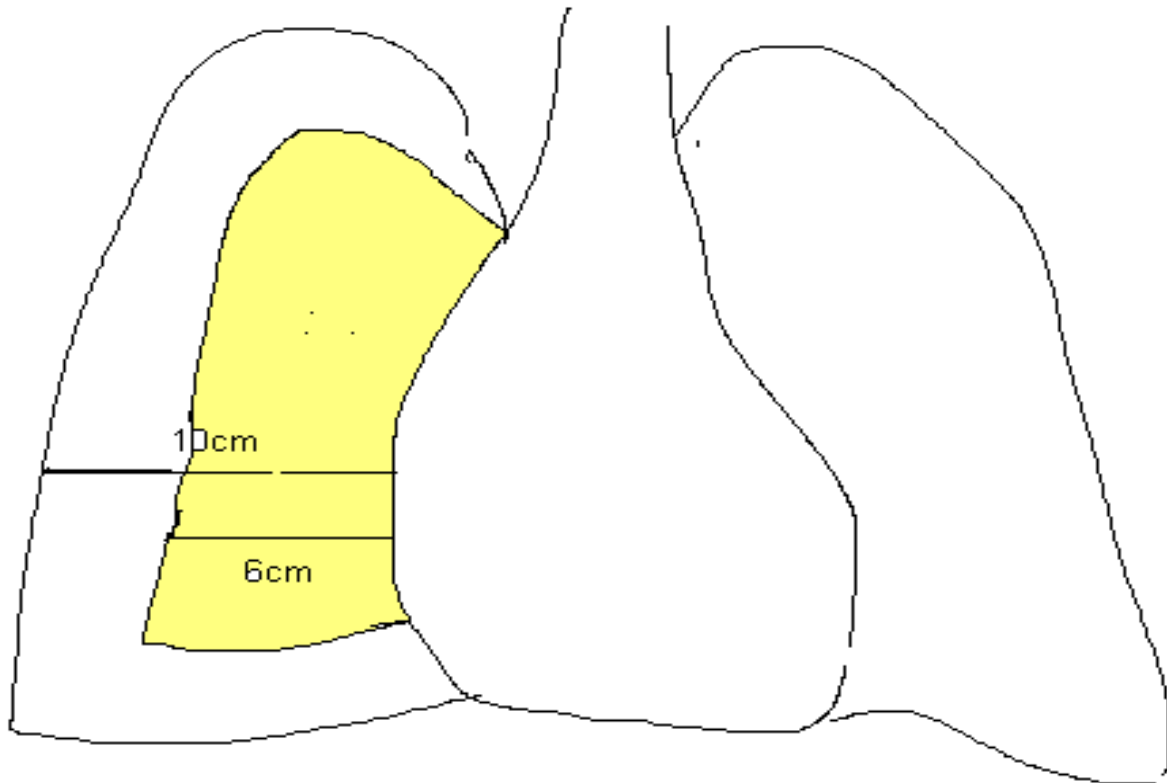
Primary pneumothorax occurs in patients who have no clinically apparent lung disorder.

Secondary pneumothorax occurs in patients with an underlying pulmonary disease, most commonly chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or pulmonary tuberculosis.

Stable patient - All of the following present: respiratory rate $<24/\text{min}$, heart rate $> 60/\text{min}$ or $<120/\text{min}$, normal blood pressure, room air oxygen saturation $>90\%$ and patient can speak in whole sentences between breaths.

Unstable patient - Any patient not fulfilling the definition of stable.

2 METHODS OF ESTIMATION OF SIZE OF PNEUMOTHORAX



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Size of pneumothorax} &= 100 \% - \frac{(\text{diameter of lung})^3}{(\text{diameter of hemithorax})^3} \times 100 \\ &= 100 - \frac{(6)^3}{(10)^3} \times 100 = 100 - 22 = 78\% \end{aligned}$$

