

# ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN SPORTS MEDICINE

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**AOSSM-AANA ICL 303**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**JULY 2021**



# CONFLICTS

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**TEAM PHYSICIAN USNA**  
**EDITORIAL BOARD OF AJSM**



# SPEAKERS

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- **Edward McDevitt**
- **Lance LeClere**
- **Marlene DeMaio**
- **John D Kelly, IV**



# DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE

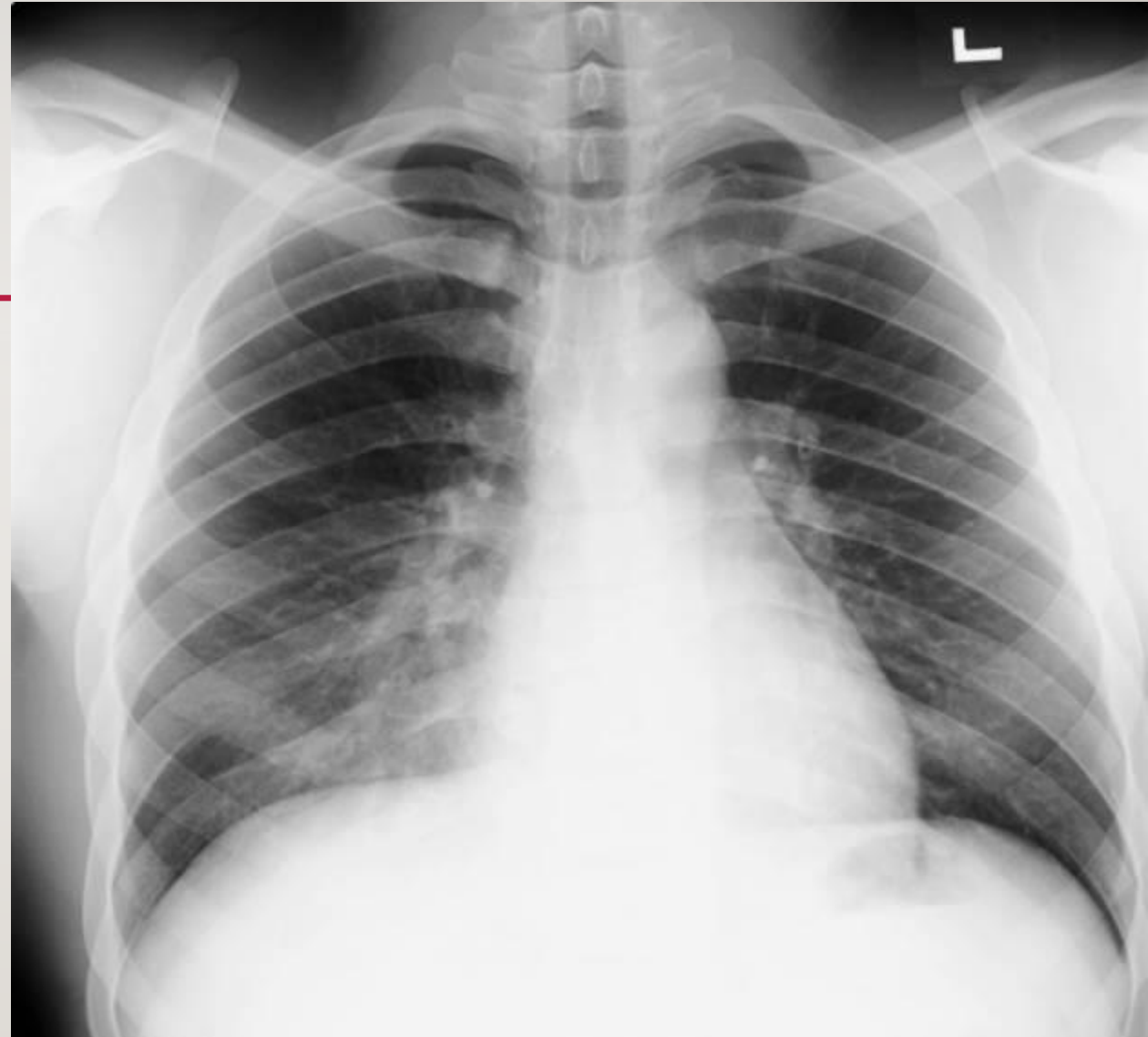
- **Star QB**
- **After a tough game**
- **“Doc, I am spitting up blood”**
- **”From your stomach or your lungs”**
- **”From my lungs”**



## **X-RAY**

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- **Contusion easily seen**
- **Player stable**



## PULMONARY CONTUSION

### Signs and Symptoms

- Chest pain
- Rales
- Dyspnea
- Tachypnea
- Ineffective cough
- Hemoptysis
- Chest wall contusions
- X-ray will show opacity
- ABG will worsen in time due to edema



## WHAT DO YOU DO?

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- 1. Admit to the hospital as emergency**
- 2. Get help from Pulmonologist**
- 3. No practice, get a flack jacket**

# PULMONOLOGIST

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- **Rest, repeat x-ray in 3 days**
- **Safe to travel to USAFA**
- **Not safe to play**
- **”He could die, if hit again, especially dangerous in the altitude of Colorado Springs**
- **Meet with parents, coaches, athletic director and ATC’s**



# UNIFORM RESPONSE

- **QB: It's Air Force, I have to play, I am the Captain and the QB, I will risk it!**
- **Coaches, AD: It's his choice**
- **Parents: "We want a second opinion, if he dies, it is God's will"**
- **ATC: We can fit him with a good flack jacket**





# WHAT DO YOU DO?

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- **2<sup>nd</sup> opinion: “safe to play”**
- **Player and parent want to sign waiver**
- **Coach- “it is critical he play- we need you to step up for the good of the team”**

- 1. Accept 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion**
- 2. Make parents sign waiver and player can play with flack jacket**
- 3. Re-check with Navy Pulmonologist-**



USAFA TEAM PHYSICIAN  
TV REPORTER  
COACH

PULL HIS HELMET  
TEAM LOSES  
NEWSPAPER 'DOCTO BLAME'

# OUR RESPONSIBILITY



- Establishes a chain of command for injury and illness management, Coordinates the assessment and management of game-day injuries and medical problems, **Makes the final decisions on clearance to participate, ...**
- Understands the importance of the pre-participation examination (PPE)
- Recognizes other issues that affect athletic performance, including strength and conditioning, nutrition, ergogenic aids, substance abuse and psychological response to injury
- Recognizes unique issues in females, master athletes, adolescent athletes, and other defined athletic populations
- Provides for documentation and medical record keeping
- Provides ongoing medical care beyond game-day/event coverage
- Is involved in injury and illness prevention
- Develops and participates in the selection of the athletic care network
- Educates athletes, parents/guardians, coaches and administrators **At Sports Medicine South, we communicate directly with each athlete and parent. ...**
- Is aware of or involved in the development and rehearsal of an emergency action plan
- Reference:
- [sportsmedsouth.com/team-physician/](https://sportsmedsouth.com/team-physician/)



**“YOU NEED TO GIVE THE TEAM VITAMINS, VITAMINS THAT MAKE THEM BIGGER AND STRONGER”**

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- **“They are illegal!”**
- **“They are dangerous”**
- **”Come on. They use them in the Big X, where I came from. The doctors check the kidneys and liver to ensure they are ok”**
- **Check with NFL Team Physician: ”What’s your problem? That’s what we do! Don’t you want your team to win?”**



# JOB ON THE LINE: WHAT DO YOU DO

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- 1. Give them steroids, but monitor closely**
- 2. Turn a blind eye, it is the athlete's choice**
- 3. Refuse, take the consequences**