

# Cohort Data Suggest Patterns of Student Errors in Performing Focused Physical Exams

Presented for:

AAMC Small Group Discussion

Washington, DC

November 6, 2007

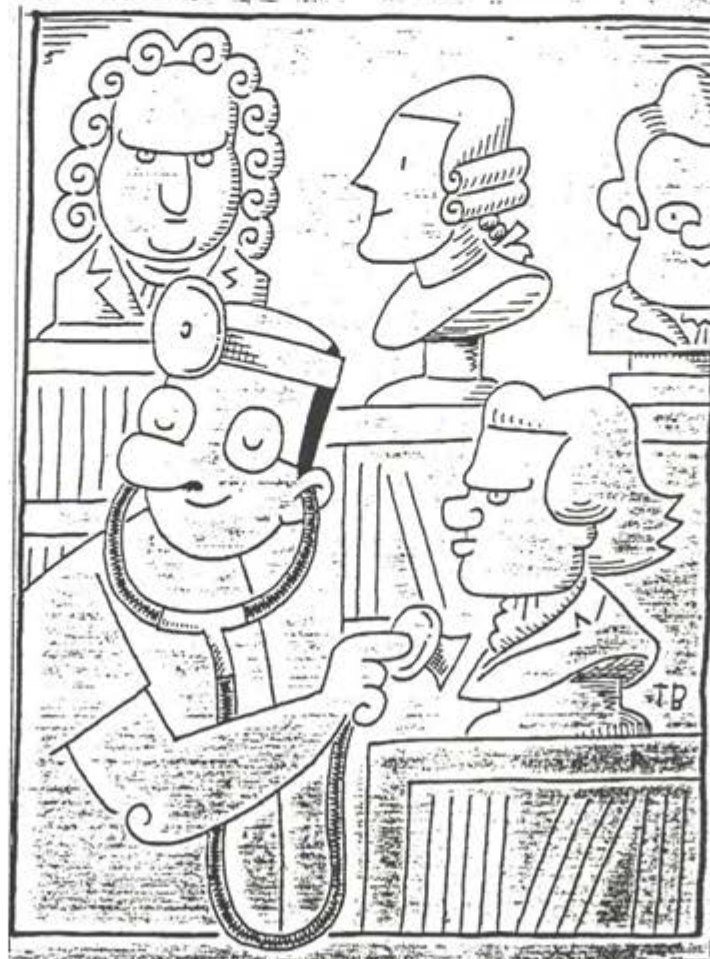
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# Listening to the Heart: Dying Art?

*The New York Times*

*September 3, 1997*



# Purpose

To compare medical students' performance on a comprehensive physical examination of a Standardized Patient (SP) in the pre-clinical years with the same students' performance of focused physical examinations of SPs in the clinical years.

# Methods

- Analysis of checklists from Clinical Skills Assessments (CSA) at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine Clinical Skills Assessment Unit
- Subjects: 177 medical students from UConn and Yale
- CSAs
  - CSA 1: Comprehensive physical examination of an SP performed in either the first or second year
  - CSA 2: Focused physical examination of an SP with CAD and an SP with PE performed in the fourth year

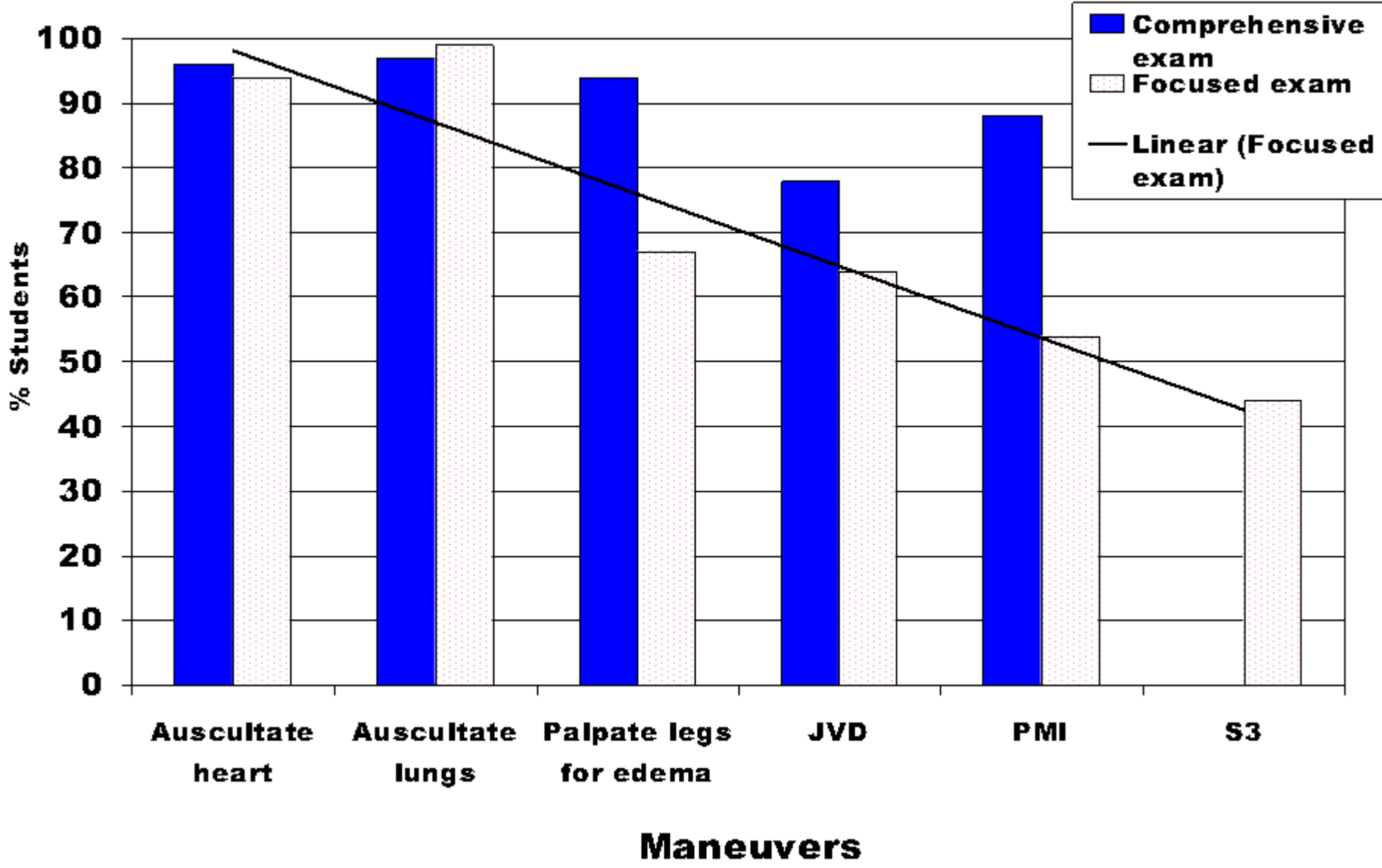
## Post Encounter Note

What is the most likely diagnosis for this patient's presenting problem? Enter in column **A** along with supporting evidence.

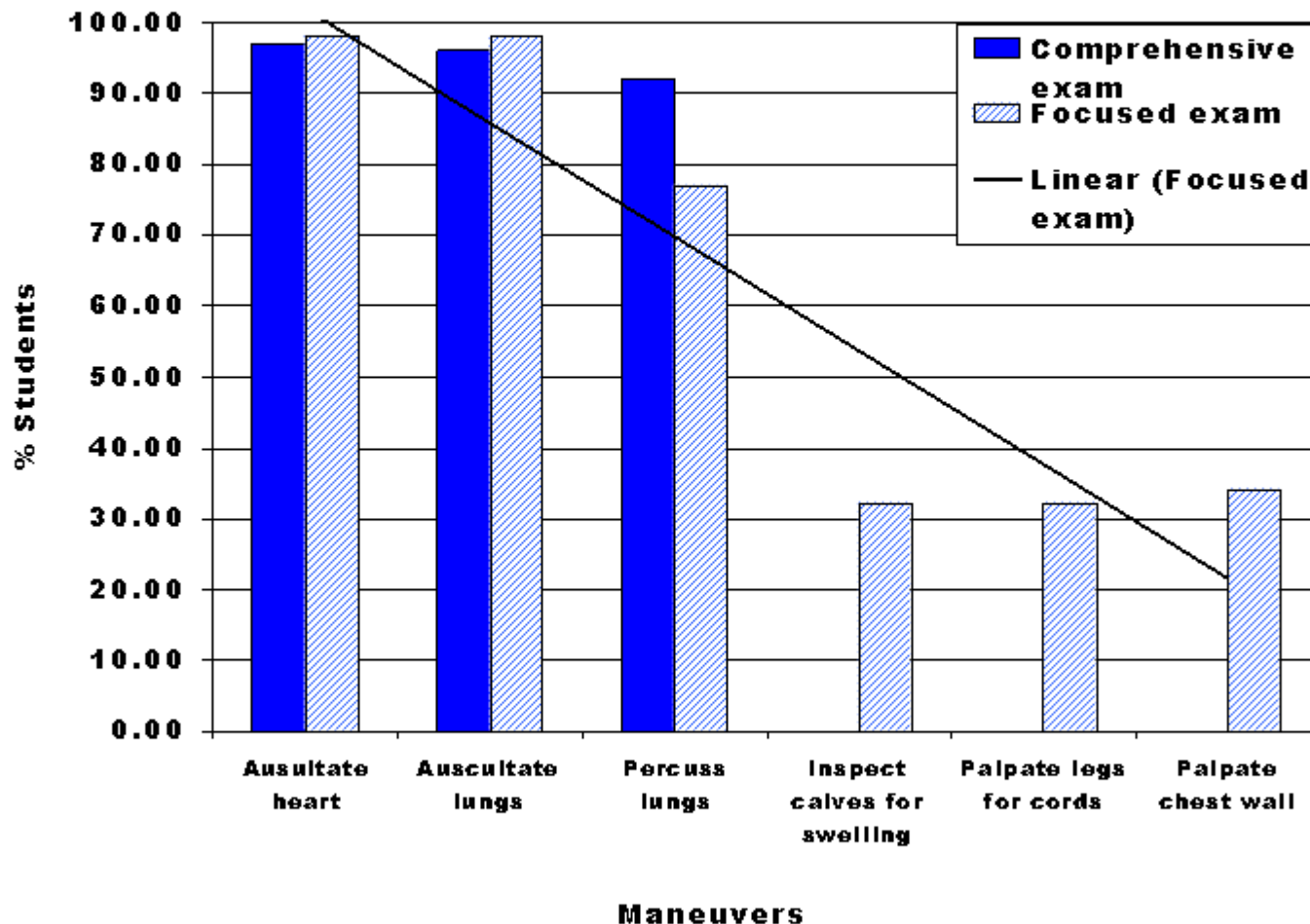
What are two other diagnoses for this patient's presenting problem? Enter in column **B and C** along with supporting evidence.

<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Hx For</b>			
<b>Hx Against</b>			
<b>PE For</b>			
<b>PE Against</b>			

# % Students Performing Selected Maneuvers on the Comprehensive Physical Exam and the Focused Exam for CAD Case, n = 177



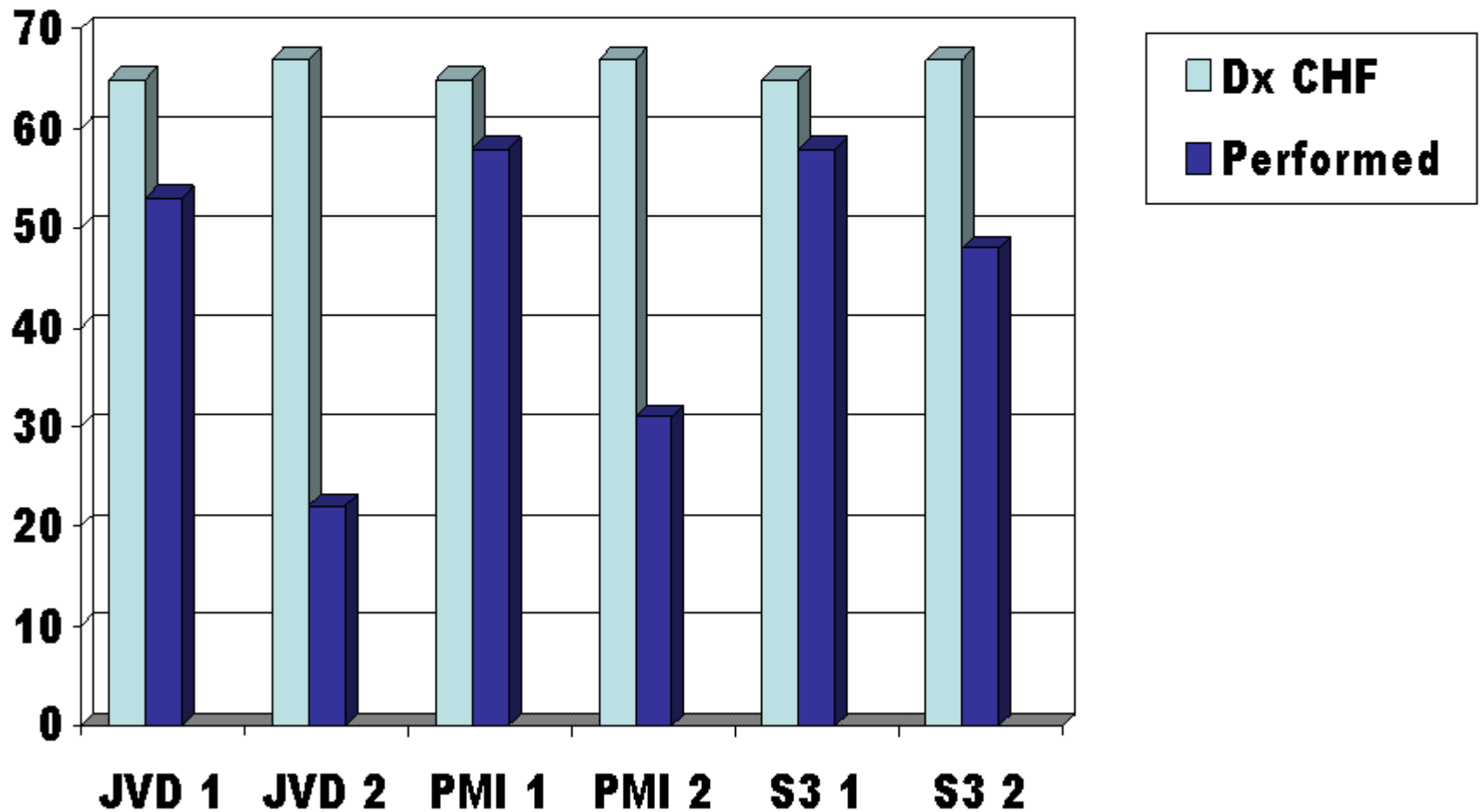
# % Students in Cohort 2 Performing Selected Maneuvers on the Comprehensive Physical Exam and the Focused Exam for PE Case, n2 = 96



# Pen Notes for CAD Case: n1 = 74, n2 = 87

% Students Listing CHF as Diagnosis and

% Students Performing Pertinent Maneuvers





# Concluding Remarks

- There is a tendency for fourth year medical students to perform an incomplete examination of the pertinent organ system in a standardized patient with a focused complaint.
- Our study suggests that it is important to define and teach which core and additional maneuvers constitute the rational focused examination of organ systems to evaluate patient complaints.