

Pneumonectomy / Lobectomy

Pneumonectomy signs

- Left/right thoracotomy scar
- On affected side
 - Tracheal displacement to side of removal
 - Reduced expansion
 - Dull percussion note
 - No breath sounds (although there may be bronchial breathing in the upper zone due to tracheal deviation)

Lobectomy signs

- Left/right thoracotomy scar
- Usually no other signs

Chest X-Ray

- Fluid fills cavity of removed lung (radio-opaque)
- Organs shift into cavity of removed lung (i.e. heart and trachea displaced)

Indications

- Lung malignancy
- Old TB
- Localised bronchiectasis
- Aspergilloma
- Large bullectomy

Lung lesion workup

- CT chest/abdo/pelvis + PET
 - Confirm no metastasis
- Attain histology
 - CT-guided biopsy/bronchoscopy/mediastinoscopy
- Pulmonary function tests
 - FEV1 > 2L = operate
 - FEV1 < 2L = ventilation perfusion scanning to determine split lung function