Case history breathlessness 2
Case History

• 82 yr old male
• Mesothelioma dx pleural biopsy 2007
• Slowly progressive tumour
• 2011 R flank swelling- extension of mesothelioma below diaphragm
• 2012 Attended OPC increasing symptoms
Symptoms

- Breathlessness
- Cough
- Disturbing sleep
- Assoc tenacious secretions esp in am
- Reduced exercise capacity
- Sleeping in chair
Assessment

• Large mass R chest wall and flank
• Dull to percussion RMZ and base
• Reduced expansion R side chest
• CXR consolidation
Assessment

- Aware SOB due to PD
- Stoical
- Worried about lack of independence/ reduced mobility due to SOB
- Defiant re being burden on wife
Management

• Admitted to hospice
• Breathing exercises from physio
• Hand held fan

• Antibiotics
• Saline nebuliser
• Carbocysteine
• Oramorph liquid
Outcome

- Much improved discharged home
- Felt in control
- Hospital bed so could sleep in bed
- Regular nebs, O2 prn
- Regular MST
- Prn Oramorph and Lorazepam

- Anticipatory subcut medications
- DNACPR form
- PPC hospice
- ePCS
3 weeks later

- Readmitted from home
- Now SOB at rest
- Moist chest +++ but unable to expectorate secretions
- Frustrated as too SOB to mobilise
Deterioration

- Syringe driver
- Hyoscine butylbromide
- Morphine
- Midazolam

- Died peacefully with wife, daughter and 2 sons