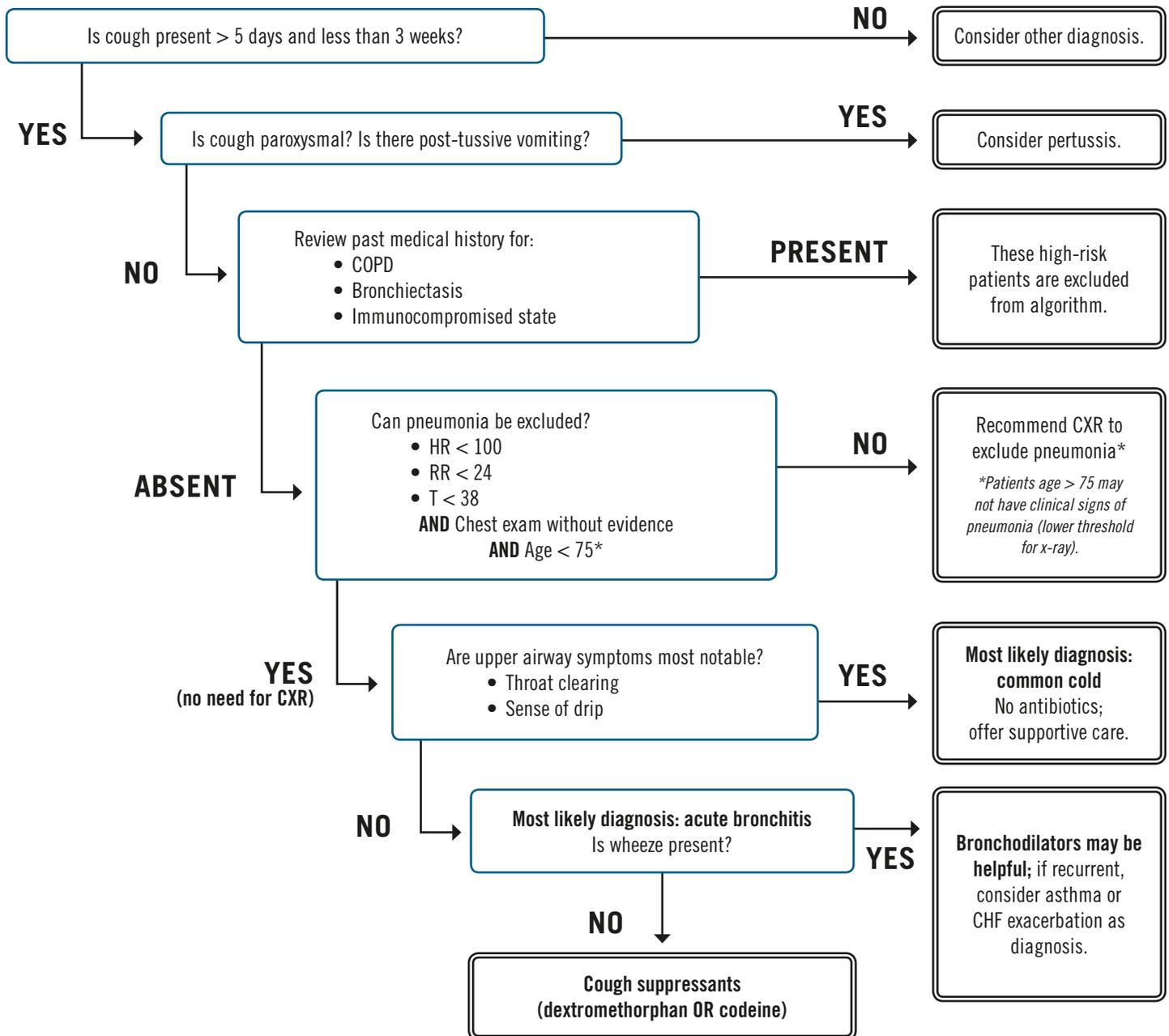


# Sample Adult Acute Bronchitis Algorithm

Provided by Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates



## ACUTE BRONCHITIS PEARLS

### Do:

- Antitussives can be helpful (dextromethorphan OR codeine)
- Bronchodilators helpful in select patients with wheezing

### Don't:

- Antibiotics *not* recommended; < 6% acute bronchitis bacterial and most of those cases little improvement with antibiotics. Smokers without COPD are not high risk and do not need antibiotics.
- Expectorants and mucolytics not helpful (guaifenesin [Mucinex])

### Risk factors for complications — may consider antibiotics in these patients:

- COPD or bronchiectasis
- Immunocompromised
- CHF

Smokers, diabetics, and asthmatics are **not high risk** for bacterial infection.

\*Patients age > 75 may have pneumonia even without focal chest findings.

After Chest 2006;129:95S–103S.