



Differential Diagnosis of Heart Failure (HF) Mimics

Asthma (see Asthma)	Dyspnea at rest and with exertion, wheezing; may be relieved by β -agonist inhalers.
Pulmonary embolism (see Venous Thromboembolism)	Pleuritic chest pain, tachycardia, evidence of deep venous thrombosis. Right heart strain pattern on ECG and seen on echocardiogram.
Atrial fibrillation (see Supraventricular Arrhythmias)	Palpitations, syncope, rapid irregular pulse. May be a consequence or cause of HF.
Supraventricular arrhythmias	Rapid heart rhythm, syncope, palpitations.
COPD (see Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)	Dyspnea at rest or with exertion, chest x-ray findings consistent with COPD.
Septic shock (see Sepsis Syndrome)	Hypotension, fever, high cardiac output, low systemic vascular resistance.
Pneumonia (see Community Acquired Pneumonia)	Fever, cough, sputum production, focal pulmonary consolidation on physical examination, characteristic chest x-ray findings.
Interstitial pulmonary disease (see Infiltrative and Fibrotic Lung Diseases)	Dyspnea, arterial oxygen desaturation with exercise, characteristic pulmonary function testing abnormalities, characteristic high-resolution chest CT scan findings.
Sleep apnea (see Obstructive Sleep Apnea)	Fatigue, frequent napping, difficulty concentrating, obesity, bed partner notes irregular breathing or apneas during sleep, snoring, atrial fibrillation, hypertension. Associated with obesity.
Renal insufficiency (see Chronic Kidney Disease)	Uremic symptoms, edema, dyspnea, fatigue. May be a consequence or a cause of HF.
Anemia (see Anemia)	Fatigue, dyspnea on exertion, pallor, "high-output" HF.

CT = computed tomography; ECG = electrocardiography.