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# Superior vena cava syndrome: An oncologic complication

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## Objectives:

To review the clinical presentation, pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, and nursing care of superior vena cava syndrome (SVCS).

#### Data sources:

Journal articles, research studies, and book chapters relating to complications of lung cancer and SVCS.

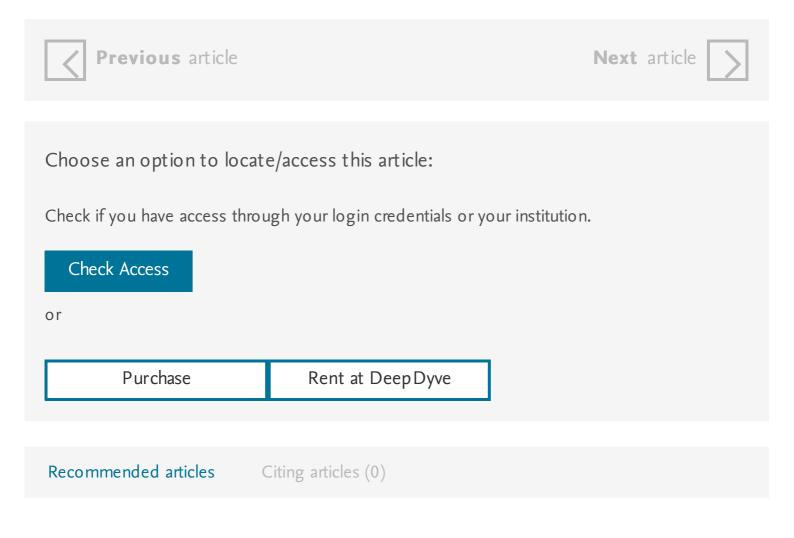
### Conclusion:

Lung cancer is the most common malignancy associated with SVCS. The onset of symptoms may be gradual or rapid. Treatment of SVCS is based on the etiology and histologic diagnosis.

### *Implications for nursing practice:*

Major considerations in the nursing care of patients with SVCS include recognition of

high-risk patients, facilitation and coordination of diagnostic procedures, assessment of respiratory, cardiac and neurologic systems, administration of therapy, provision of emotional and psychosocial support, and patient education.



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