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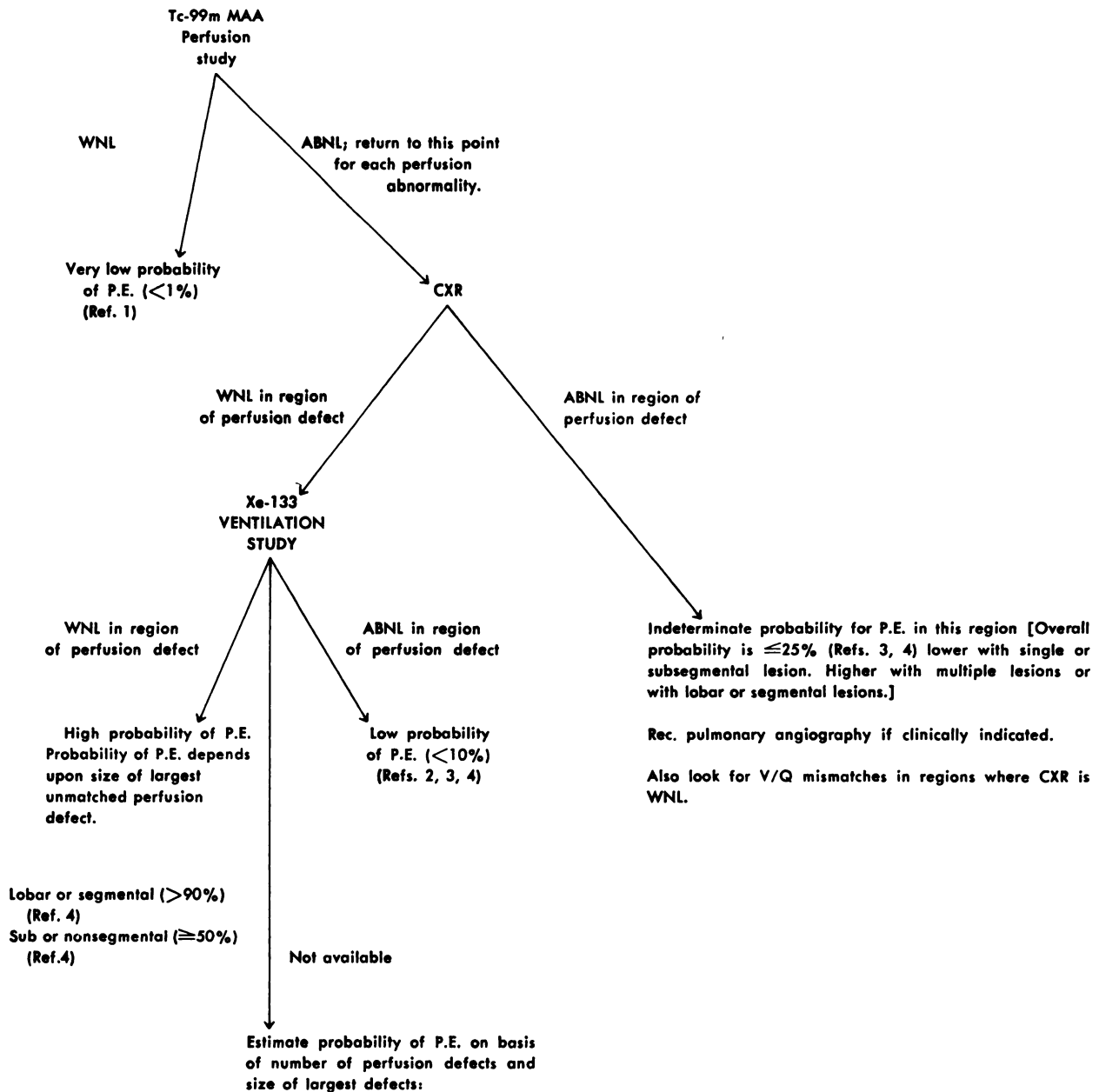
Interpreting Lung Studies Obtained in Patients with Suspected Pulmonary Embolism

In response to a recent article by Robin (1), we have decided to re-evaluate our method of interpreting lung

studies obtained in patients with suspected pulmonary embolism. After reviewing the recent literature, we have developed a flowchart as an aid in interpretation (see illustration). This flowchart is currently being used in our laboratory and we feel that it might be of value to the readers of the *Journal*. Please note that although evaluation of the perfusion study is the first step in the overall interpretation process, whenever possible we precede the perfusion study with a ventilation study.

In reporting these studies to the referring physician, we

FLOWCHART



January 3, 1978
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 John Seder, M.D.

	Multiple Defects (Ref. 4)	Single Defect (Ref. 4)
	Lobar 80%	50%
	Segmental 50%	~25%
	Subseg 10%	<10%

use the following definitions of high, indeterminate, low, and very low probability:

High probability of P.E.	$\geq 50\%$
Indeterminate	$\leq 25\%$
Low	$\leq 10\%$
Very low	$\leq 1\%$

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