

Nixon Tests Show No New Lung Clots

By Stuart Auerbach
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LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 13—Tests on former President Nixon today showed that no new blood clots have moved to his lungs and that his pneumonia is getting better.

The reports make it almost certain that Mr. Nixon will be discharged from the hospital Thursday or Friday.

His personal physician, John C. Lungren, said that Mr. Nixon's discharge depended on the results of those tests. Today Lungren said, "We are still hopeful of discharging him to his home [in San Clemente, 50 miles south of here] later this week.

Lungren said X-rays showed that the area of pneumonia in the right lung has continued to get better and that fluid in the left lung is decreasing.

More significantly, he said, radioactive lung scans showed that the area of inactive lung sacs in the right lung—called atelectasis—is due to the pneumonia, not to new blood clots. The two look very similar on X-rays and could be confused.

Mr. Nixon suffered a life-threatening blood clot in his lung in September, but Dr. Earl Dore, director of nuclear medicine at Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, reported today that the clot is dissolving on its own in a normal way.

That clot, however, did result in a dime-sized area of dead tissue in the left lung. The formation of other clots in Mr. Nixon's left leg, caused by a severe case of phlebitis, forced his doctors to operate 15 days ago. They placed a clip on a major vein in his left thigh to form a blood gate that would stop the clots from flowing to his lung.

Mr. Nixon's recovery from that operation was difficult. He went into shock six hours after surgery as a result of massive internal bleeding. Doctors said the shock brought him to the brink of death. Since then, he has developed complicated blood abnormalities, pneumonia and high blood pressure.