

THORACOSCOPIC TALC POUDRAGE PLEURODESIS FOR MALIGNANT PLEURAL EFFUSIONS

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Abstract: *The aim of our study was to review the common causes of malignant pleural effusion and to examine the effectiveness of different kinds of pleurodesis who were applied. We made a retrospective study on 79 cases who were hospitalized between January 1998 and July 2003 with recurrent pleural effusions in Thoracic Surgery Department of Kantonspital Luzern. In study group the females were 57.88%; 54.38% from all were smoker; the mean age was 62.14; 78.94% of cases were with atypical cells in fluid, the rest were with biopsy confirmation. The most common causes of malignant pleural fluid were lung and breast. In 57 cases talc pleurodesis was done, 5 from these were made after bleomycine. The pleurodesis was done in the first 4 days and the median hospitalization after intervention was 6 days. Complications occurred in 12 cases: pulmonary emboli, pulmonary oedema, pneumonia, empyema and increase of pleural drainage. A prognosis of these patients with recurrent chronic pleural effusion is poor with 5 (8.77%) deaths in the first month and other 5 (8.77%) in next 6 months, with an important decrease of quality of life. In our study the successful rate was 78.94% and the inefficient repeated thoraco-centesis with the increase of liquid between one and three days was associated with high risk of empyema and decreases the lifespan less than one month.*

Key words: *malignant pleural effusion, pleurodesis, talc, thoracoscopy.*

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