

Video-assisted Thoracoscopy: Role in the Management of Intrathoracic Pathology

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Abstract

A retrospective study was done from October 1992 to December 1996 of 48 patients who underwent video-assisted thoracoscopy. A male to female ratio of 3.7:1 was seen, with a mean age of 50 ± 19 years. The underlying diagnoses included spontaneous pneumothorax ($n = 23$), malignant pleural effusion ($n = 16$), lung disease ($n = 4$), trauma ($n = 2$), empyema ($n = 2$) and oesophageal carcinoma ($n = 1$). The use of this modality is discussed in the treatment of various intrathoracic pathologies.

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Key words: Lung disease, Minimally invasive, Pleural effusion, Pneumothorax, Trauma

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