

Role of video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (vats) in children with early empyema thoracis in comparison to open thoracotomy

Gulam Mohammed Irfan

Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad, India

Background/ Purpose: VATS is more effective in early empyema which includes exudative and early fibrinopurulent phase. This study evaluates the role of VATS and compare the results with open decortications done during the same period for early empyema thoracis.

Method: A prospective study was done on children with empyema thoracis who underwent VATS from March 2008 to March 2011 in a single large center. The collected data included age, clinical presentation, radiological investigation, pleural fluid analysis, intraoperative findings, histopathological findings and post operative course. The length of stay and the post-operative time taken for clinical and radiological lung expansion was compared with cases of open decortication done for early empyema during the same period.

Results: Of the 198 cases of empyema, 54 underwent VATS and open decortication in 130 children. Postoperatively patients became afebrile in 2 ± 1.2 days in VATS and 7 ± 3.2 days in open decortication. Clinical and radiological expansion was earlier in VATS with 3 ± 2.1 and 6 ± 2.2 days respectively.

Conclusions: The prospective study concludes that VATS is more effective and less invasive than open Thoracotomy for early empyema thoracis in decreasing the morbidity and has better cosmeses.

Biography

G. M. Irfan did his MS, MCh (Paediatric Surgery) from Osmania Medical College. He did MRCS (Edin) from the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh. He did his Fellowship in Minimal Access Surgery from GEM hospital Coimbatore. Presently he is working as Asst Prof. in Department of Surgery at Niloufer Hospital for Women And Child Health.

drgmirfan@yahoo.co.in