

Randomised trial of pleural fluid drainage frequency in patients with malignant pleural effusions: the ASAP trial



Study Author(s)

Wahidi MM, Reddy C, Yarmus L, Feller-Kopman D, Musani A, Shepherd RW, Lee H, Bechara R, Lamb C, Shofer S, Mahmood K, Michaud G, Puchalski J, Rafeq S, Cattaneo SM, Mullon J, Leh S, Mayse M, Thomas SM, Peterson B, Light RW



Study Design

Randomised, single-blinded, phase IV, multicentre



Study Location

United States



Publication

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Study Length

2009 to 2013



Study Objective

"To determine whether an aggressive daily drainage strategy is superior to the current standard every other day drainage of pleural fluid in achieving autopleurodesis"



Key Endpoint(s)

Incidence of autopleurodesis ("defined as complete or partial response based on symptomatic and radiographic changes")



Patient Population

Patients with recurrent malignant pleural effusions



Treatment

Patients were randomised to either aggressive drainage (daily; n=73) or standard drainage (every other day; n=76) of pleural fluid



Key Findings

- Rate of autopleurodesis was greater in the aggressive drainage arm (47% [N = 34] vs 24% [N = 18]; P = 0.003)
- Patients in the aggressive drainage arm had a shorter median time to autopleurodesis than those in the standard drainage arm (54 days vs 90 days)
- No significant difference in quality of life or patient satisfaction
- No significant difference in rate of adverse events



Study Conclusions

- *"Among patients with malignant pleural effusion, daily drainage of pleural fluid via an indwelling pleural catheter led to a higher rate of autopleurodesis"*