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Title: Diagnostic yield of image guided Abrams needle versus Tru-cut needle pleural biopsies for non-granulomatous pleural disease: A large tertiary centre experience

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Body: Aim: To compare the diagnostic yield of physician led image guided Abrams pleural biopsies versus interventional radiologist led Tru-cut. Methodology: Retrospective analysis of image guided pleural biopsies from 2006 to 2011 in a large tertiary centre. Granulomatous disease was excluded. Results: We analysed 27 Abrams and 33 Tru-cut biopsies. The median (IQR) of the size (volume) of specimens for Abrams vs Tru-cut were 14mm³ (2 - 12) vs 8mm³ (4 - 12). Comparing both types using Mann-Whitney U test showed statistically significant difference p =0.030. Analysis of the yield of pleural tissue and diagnosis by Chi-Squared or Fischer's exact test in Abrams vs Tru-cut were 93.8% vs 86.7% (p= 0.339) and 89.6% vs 88.3% (p=0.837) respectively.

Conclusion: Physician led image guided Abrams biopsies had larger size specimens. The diagnostic yield of Abrams technique is statistically similar to the Tru-cut method. The diagnostic yield with Abrams is superior to published literature. To the best of our knowledge this is the first data series comparing image guided Abrams vs Tru-cut pleural biopsies.