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Title: Value of thoracoscopic pleural brush in the diagnosis of exudative pleural effusion

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Body: Background: Medical thoracoscope had been established to have greater diagnostic yield in the diagnosis of exudative pleural effusion. Aim of this study: to evaluate the value of thoracoscopic pleural brush in the diagnosis of exudative pleural effusion. Setting: Endoscopy Unit, Chest Department, Assiut University Hospital -Egypt Material and Methods: the study was conducted upon 28 patients with exudative pleural effusion from January 2011 to December 2011, in whom both the conventional pleural tapping and closed pleural biopsy was not conclusive. All patients submitted for medical thoracoscope, where forceps biopsy and pleural brush specimens were taken for all patients. Results: Thoracoscopic pleural specimens were positive in 26 patients (92.8%). Histo-pathological examination of thoracoscopic specimens revealed malignant lesions in (21 patients), TB in (2 patients) and non specific inflammation in (3 patients). Forceps biopsy was positive in 23 patients, while pleural brush was positive in 17 patients. Thoracoscopic pleural brush was the only diagnostic modality in 3 patients all were adenocarcinoma that allow increased diagnostic yield of medical thoracoscope from 23 patients (82.1%) to 26 patients (92.8%). No complications recorded with pleural brush procedures. Conclusion: Thoracoscopic pleural brush could be done easy and safe and allow obtaining pleural cellular material in areas dangerous to take biopsy specimens. It could augment diagnostic yield of medical thoracoscope.