European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

Abstract Number: 3737

Publication Number: P2662

Abstract Group: 8.1. Thoracic Surgery

Keyword 1: Pleura Keyword 2: Systemic effect Keyword 3: Animal models

Title: Systemic inflammatory repercussions after pleurodesis in an experimental model of pneumothorax

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Body: Introduction: Thoracoscopy (VATS) is used for recurrent pneumothorax (PTX) to remove blebs and create pleurodesis. However, little is known about the systemic effects of different forms of VATS pleurodesis. Aim: To evaluate in an experimental model the systemic inflammatory effects produced by VATS pleurodesis. Methods: Four groups of rabbits were submitted to VATS pleurodesis. Blood samples were collected pre-operatively and after 24, 48 hours and 28 days, and assayed for total leukocyte (WBC), neutrophils, and the serum levels of IL-8, TGFb and VEGF. After 28 days the animals were sacrificed for macroscopic evaluation of pleurodesis. Results: No difference was found in WBC and neutrophils. TGFb and VEGF serum levels were undetectable. Serum IL-8 increased acutely and decreased after 28 days except in the pleurectomy group.

Serum levels of IL-8 after VATS pleurodesis in an experimental model of PTX.

	Pre-Op	24h	48h	28d	p value
Control	173	524	1045 &	136	<0.001
Gauze	262	430	960 &&	287	=0.009
Plastic Mesh	331	876	1212 ¥	772 **	=0.006
Pleurectomy	255	1304 *£	1182 £	1313 *£	<0.001
p value	NS	=0.004	NS	<0.001	

After 28 days, the pleurectomy group had significantly higher pleural adhesions (2.1 \pm 0.3) than the gauze and plastic mesh abrasion groups (0.7 \pm 0.5 and 0.7 \pm 0.3; p< 0.001). Conclusions: Apical pleurectomy

group had more effective adhesions than gauze and plastic mesh abrasion groups. Serum IL-8 was the only parameter found elevated in all groups, peaking at 48 hours and decreasing along time, except in the pleurectomy group, showing a more persistent pleural inflammation in this particular group in comparison to the lesser invasive forms of pleural irritation (gauze and plastic mesh abrasion).