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Title: Is transbronchial lung biopsy using cryoprobes useful in the management of diffuse lung disease?

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Body: Objectives: Bronchoscopic transbronchial lung biopsy (TBLB) with cryoprobe increases the diagnostic yield in comparison to conventional biopsy forceps in interstitial lung diseases¹. The aim of this study is to evaluate the clinical helpfulness of TBLB using cryoprobes compared with conventional technique. Methods: Randomized clinical trial results post-analysis of patients submitted to a TBLB with conventional forceps (Biopsy Forceps Boston®, Ref: 1556 and Olympus®, Ref: FB-19E) versus cryoprobe (Erbokryo® CA, Ref: 20426-032). A biopsy was defined as helpful when it allowed a specific clinical or pharmacological decision. Clinical interventions were classified as: (1) drug prescription, (2) diagnostic-based treatment abstention and, (3) removal of allergens or other toxics. TBLB was considered useless if the result did not induced any therapeutic change and/or other sampling procedures, such as surgical biopsy, were required. Results: The % of patients with a helpful TBLB with cryoprobe was higher (60.5%, n=38) than the conventional forceps group (29.7%, n=37) (p = 0.011).

Conclusion: Diagnostic yield improvement of TBPB using cryoprobe increases the clinical utility of transbronchial biopsies in the study and therapeutic management of patients with interstitial lung diseases. 1Pajares et al. Diagnostic yield of transbronchial cryobiopsy in diffuse lung disease: a randomised trial. ERJ submitted.

