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Title: Diagnostic yield of transthoracic lung biopsy guided by CT in diffuse lung disease

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Body: Introduction: Diffuse Lung Diseases (DLD)encloses a large and heterogeneous group of diseases, which diagnosis is based on a multidisciplinary approach that sometimes requires histology. Transthoracic Lung biopsy (TTLB)guided by CT have been scantily used in this context and its actual diagnostic value is unknown.Objective: Analysis of the diagnostic yield and complications of TTLB guided by CT and its relevance in the multidisciplinary diagnostic approach of DLD.Methods: Retrospective review of 56 patients clinical files with DLD, who were submitted to TTLB guided by CT between January 2009 and November 2011. Trucut18-20Gauge needles, percutaneous anesthesia and multislice CT Siemens Somatom were used.Results: The patients included had an average age of 58.4 years and 32(57%) were male. Diffuse micronodular was the most frequent CT pattern observed in 41.1% patients, consolidation in 25%, ground glass in 14.3%, reticular in 14.3% and cysts in 5.3%. Biopsy confirmed preliminary diagnostic hypothesis in 27(48.2%) patients and in 13(23.2%) histological features observed guided to another diagnosis, leading to a diagnostic sensitivity of 71,4%(40/56 patients). In 16(28.6%) patients this procedure was not conclusive. Diffuse micronodular and consolidation were the higher diagnostic yield patterns. 11 patients had complications, 7 pneumothorax and 4 non-massive hemoptysis. Organizing pneumonia (35%), sarcoidosis (12%) and silicosis (10%) were the most frequent diagnosis.Conclusions: In this series of patients TTLB guided by CT was safe, quick and with high diagnostic accuracy, suggesting that should be considered as one of diagnostic methods in the context of the DLD when histology is required.