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Title: Idiopathic pleuritis: Truth or myth?

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Body: Objective: To determine the presence or not of idiopathic pleuritis in patients that underwent medical thoracoscopy (MT) Materials and methods: Retrospective study of 750 patients (1998-2011) that underwent MT under conscious and local sedation. Assessment of clinicopathological status/results and clinical follow up in the thoracic outpatients clinic. Results: Thirty two patients were excluded from the group of patients with undiagnosed pleural effusion (histology report: systemic disease or parapneumonic effusion). 152/770 patients (20.2%) were classified as idiopathic pleuritis (sinister and any other underlying pathology was excluded) and underwent long term surveillance. Mean surveillance was 4.1 years (2 months–9 years). During that time 2/152 was diagnosed with lung cancer. 3/152 presented pleural effusion recurrence without any signs of malignancy/systemic disease and underwent talc pleurodesis. Conclusions: Undiagnosed pleural effusions constitute a large group among the pleural effusion patients. This group is associated with favourable patient outcome and encouraging prognosis especially when the diagnosis is set by MT under conscious sedation.