

# ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC BRONCHOSCOPIC TECHNIQUES AMONG LUNG TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS WITH PULMONARY NODULES

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**Background:** To assess usefulness of Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS) and Electromagnetic Navigation (EMN) among lung transplant patients with pulmonary nodules.

**Methods:** We identified lung transplant recipients who presented with a new lung nodule from January 2009 to October 2013. We included patients in which EMN and/or EBUS were used in order to establish the etiology of each lung nodule. We describe the diagnostic yield of these advanced diagnostic modalities, pathology and compare results with autopsy information, when available.

**Results:** Twenty-three patients (Age:  $52 \pm 15$  years, Females: 12) presented with new lung nodules after Lung transplantation. These nodules were evident after a mean ( $\pm$ SD) of 17 ( $\pm$  7) months. Twelve lung transplants were bilateral. Eighteen nodules were visualized on chest tomogram; seventeen of these were identified in transplanted lung, whereas two in the native lungs. Eight patients had mediastinal lymphadenopathy at the time of diagnosis. In our opinion, conventional bronchoscopic or percutaneous diagnostic procedures were of high-risk benefit ratio in these patients. Bronchoscopy with linear EBUS was used in eight patients, radial EBUS in eighteen patients and EMN in 7 with peripheral lesions. Combined, these modalities accurately detected etiologies in 4/24 (83%) patients (7 focal pneumonias, and 7 neoplasms). These techniques were not able to define an etiology for nodules due to post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD) on 3 patients; the diagnosis was established at the time of autopsy.

**Conclusions:** Advanced bronchoscopic techniques appear to aid in the diagnosis of lung nodules, although the true value of such approach remains uncertain. We failed to diagnose condition of PTLD using advanced bronchoscopic techniques. Further work in this patient population is encouraged in order to elucidate improved diagnostic approaches.

sr121HCase	Modality	Location	Indication	Path	Outcome
1	EMN/REBUS	RLL	RLL Nodule	Lymphs/histiocytes	Autopsy 11/25 PTLT
2	REBUS	LLL	LLL mass	No specimens taken	Autopsy 11/25 PTLT
3	EMN/REBUS	RLL	RLL Nodule	neg	improved on CT
4	EMN/REBUS	LLL	RLL nodule	neg	BAC by CT-FNA
5	EBUS	4R	Mediastinal Adenopathy	Small Cell	Small Cell
6	EBUS	4R, 4L, 7, 10R	RUL and Mediastinal	Atypical	Confirmed neg by med
7	EBUS	7, 2R	Mediastinal Adenopathy	SCC both nodes	SCC
8	EBUS/REBUS	4L, LUL	Mediastinal Adenopathy LUL	Inflammation	Radiologic improvement
9	REBUS	RML	RML nodule	Inflammation	Radiologic improvement
10	REBUS	RLL	RLL Nodule	SCC	SCC
11	EMN/REBUS	LLL	LLL Nodule	Nondiagnostic	BAC by CT-FNA
12	REBUS	RML	RML nodule	Aspergillus	Radiologic Stability
13	EMN/REBUS	RUL	RUL Nodule	Pseudomonas	Radiologic improvement
14	EMN/REBUS	RUL	RUL Nodule	Acute Inflammation	Radiologic stability/died of PTLT
15	REBUS	Lingula	Lingula Nodules	Pseudomonas	Died
16	EBUS/REBUS	RUL / 11R	RUL Nodule and Mediastinal Adenopathy	SCC	SBRT
17	REBUS	LLL	LLL Nodules	Pseudomonas	Radiologic improvement
18	REBUS	RLL	RLL Nodule	Small Cell Carcinoma	SBRT
19	EBUS	4L, 7 and 4 R stations	Mediastinal Adenopathy	Lymphoid tissue, A2 rejection	(+) galactomanannan
20	EMN/REBUS	RLL	RLL Nodule	PTLT	Chemotherapy
21	REBUS	RML	RML Nodule	Nocardia	Died graft failure
22	REBUS	RLL	RLL infiltrate	MAI	Died BOS
23	EBUS	4R	Mediastinal Adenopathy	Small Cell Carcinoma	Died
24	EBUS	4R and 7 stations	Mediastinal Adenopathy	Lymphoid tissue	Died (septic shock)
25	EBUS	4R	Mediastinal Adenopathy	PTLT/CLL	Chemotherapy