



Pleuroscopy with a semi-flexible pleura thoracoscope

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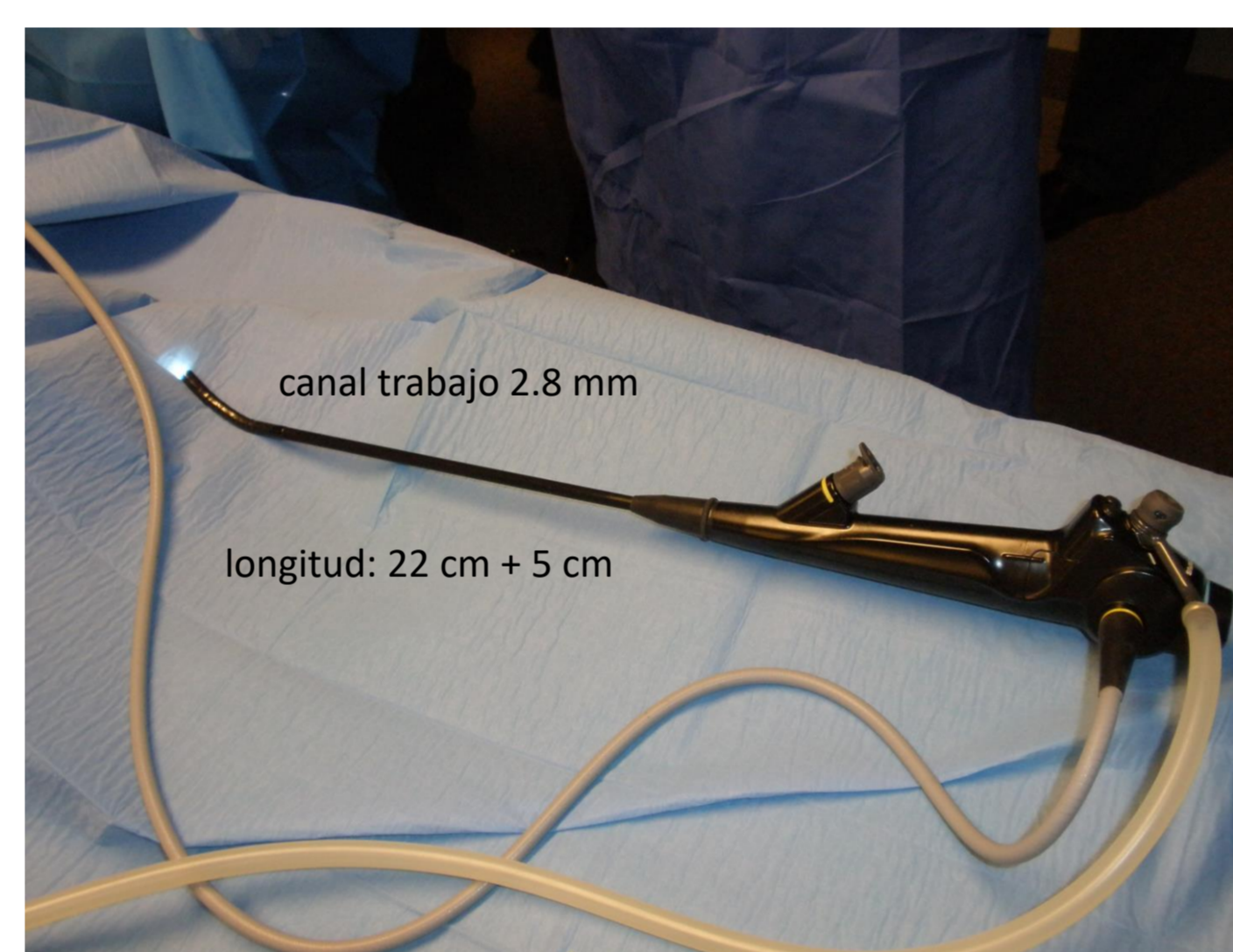
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Conflict of interest: E. Barbeta and Y. Galea have received fees from Olympus® for training sessions

Pleuroscopy, also known as thoracoscopy under local anaesthesia, is a useful technique in the diagnosis and treatment of pleural effusions. The development of a semi-rigid thoracoscope, similar in design to the flexible bronchoscope, can help to implement this technique in the departments of pneumology improving the performance in the management of pleural disease.

AIM

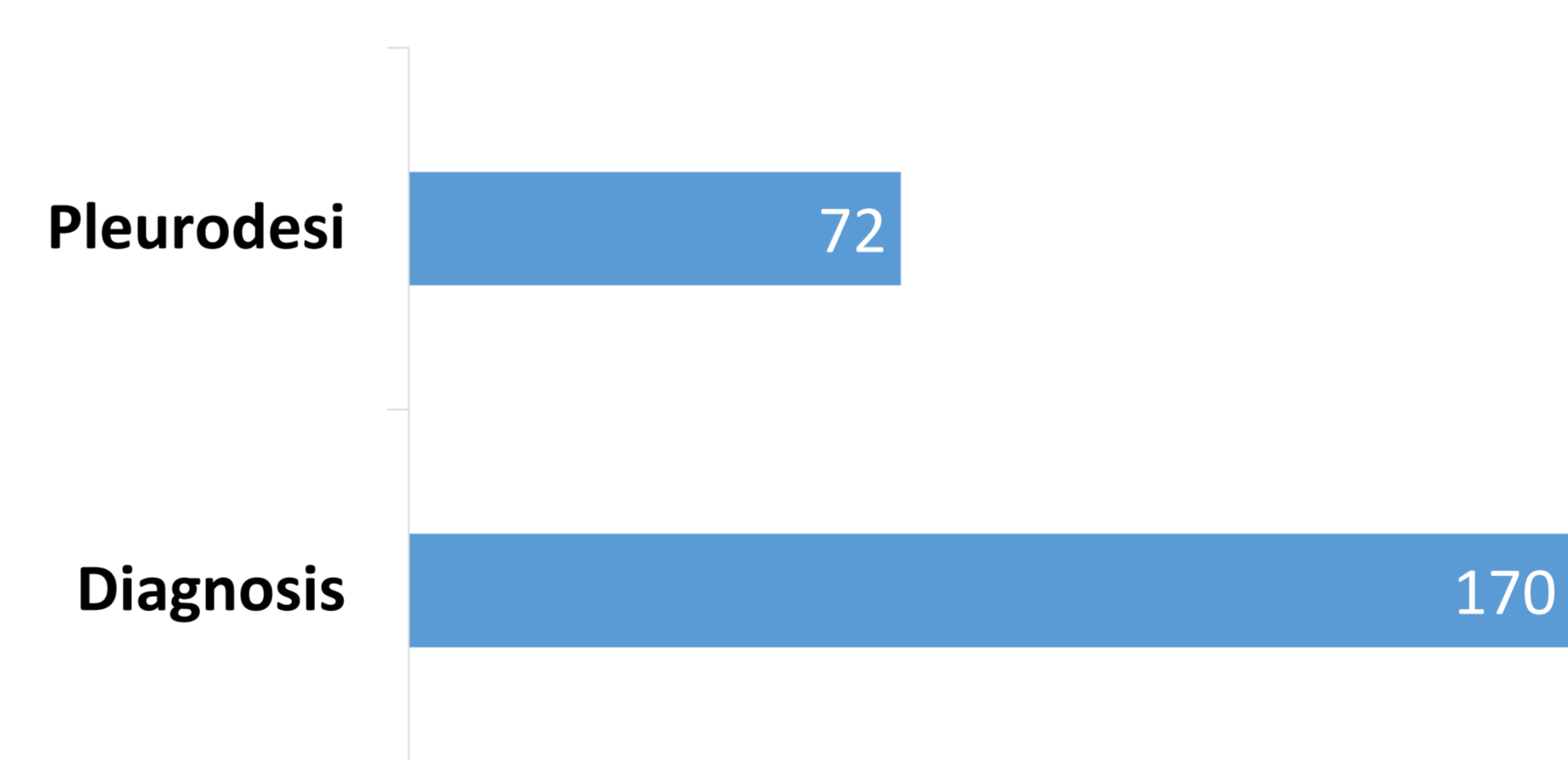
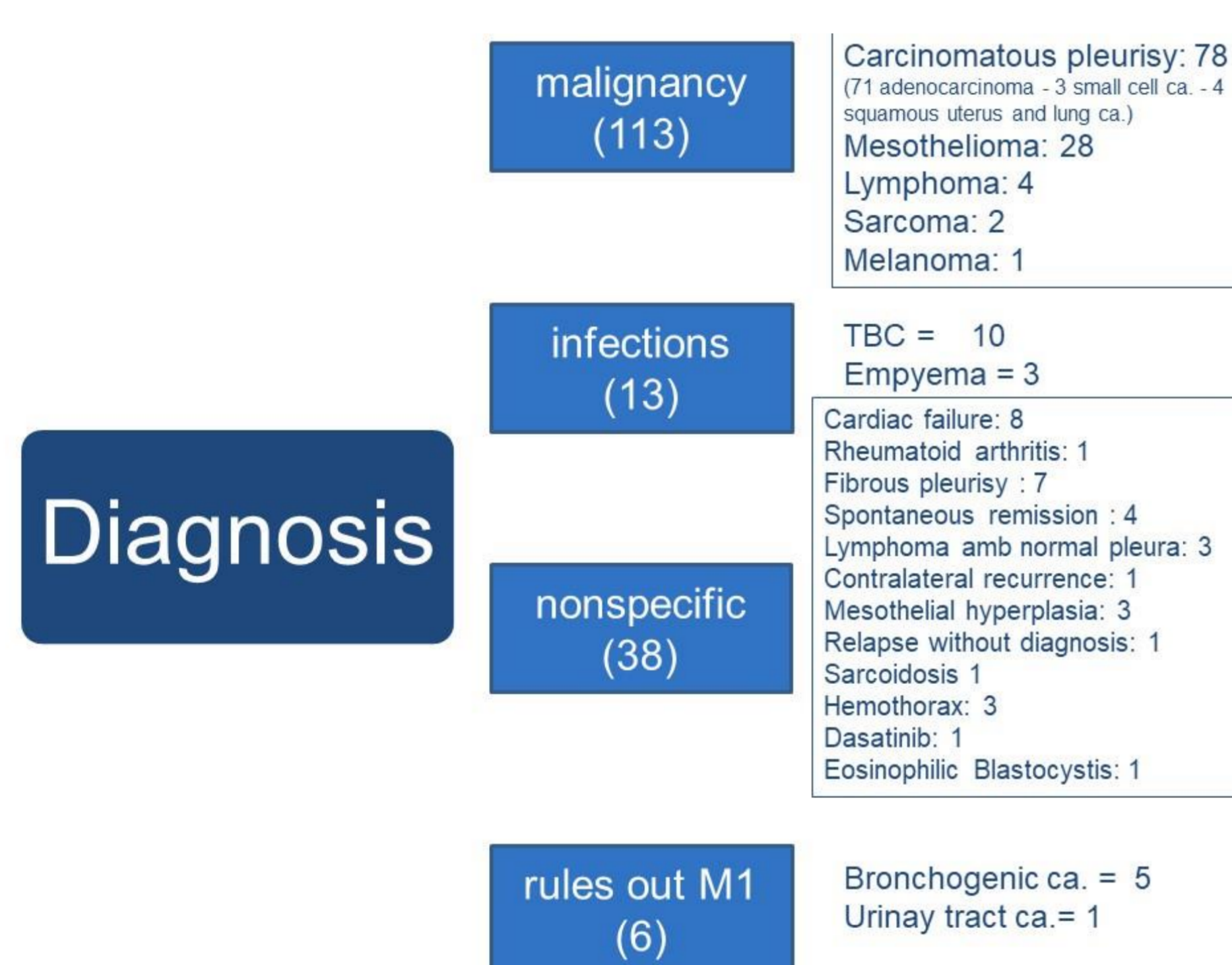
To describe the results of the pleuroscopies performed in a general hospital during the last 12 years, using the OLYMPUS LTF-160 semiflexible thoracoscope.



Pleuroscopies were performed under local anaesthesia and conscious sedation in an endoscopy area

RESULTS

242 patients (mean age 65 years)



4 patients were false negative (2 mesotheliomas and 2 carcinomas)

The specificity for malignancy was 100% and sensitivity 96%

Finally, **149 pleurodesis** with talc (Steritalc Novatech®) were performed, the median survival of 71 deceased patients was 156 days.

Complications of the procedure: 7 cases of subcutaneous emphysema, 3 case of infection stitch, 6 case of persistent air leak and 1 empyema.

CONCLUSIONS

1 - The pleuroscopy with the semi-flexible thoracoscope is a safe, minimally invasive technique, with high performance diagnostic and therapeutic indications.

2 - The realization of this technique under local anaesthesia and conscious sedation in an endoscopy room simplifies and speeds up the diagnostic process of pleura diseases.

3 - The availability of this semi-rigid thoracoscope should facilitate the implementation of this technique in the respiratory endoscopy units and increase the efficiency of pulmonologists in the management of pleural pathology.

Disclosure of funding source(s): none