

CATAMENIAL PNEUMOTHORAX: LITERATURE REVIEW, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

Catamenial pneumothorax (CP) is a type of spontaneous pneumothorax (SP), which occurs only in women and is caused by extragenital endometriosis, being a manifestation of the so-called thoracic endometriotic syndrome (TES).

Extragenital endometriosis localized in the chest includes endometrial implantation on the parietal and visceral pleura, diaphragm, bronchi, and lung parenchyma. Clinical presentation of CP is the same as in conventional pneumothorax, except of its synchronization with menstruation.

CP is no different from the picture of ordinary SP except for synchronous development with menstruation. The diagnosis is based on the results of radiological (chest radiography, computed tomography of the chest), instrumental (thoracoscopy, VATS, thoracotomy), pathohistological and immunohistochemical examination methods.

According to the local protocol, thoracoscopy is already performed at the 1st episode of pneumothorax, while international guidelines recommend performing initially the drainage of the pleural cavity or aspiration; and thoracoscopy - in case of recurrent episodes. A multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of CP, namely, a combination of surgical treatment and adequate hormone therapy, is the most effective method of management of this condition.

Key words: catamenial pneumothorax, extragenital endometriosis, thoracoscopy.

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