Conclusion Smoking prevention is the key to reducing lung cancer. A lot of effort to encourage people to give up smoking has focused on men. Evidence of increasing female rates, more so in deprived areas; show that targeted efforts to support women need to be increased in order for large health gains to be achieved.

P218 IS THERE ANY VALUE IN OBTAINING A TISSUE DIAGNOSIS IN SUSPECTED LUNG CANCER PATIENTS WITH A PERFORMANCE STATUS 3–4?

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Introduction The National Lung Cancer Audit stipulates a minimum 75% tissue diagnosis rate in order to meet the standard required for Peer Review. Whilst this is imperative in patients suitable for potentially curative treatment (PS=1–2), in those with a poorer performance state (PS=3–4) it has been suggested that investigations aimed at obtaining a tissue diagnosis lengthen the diagnostic process without improving the patient journey, thereby wasting resource and diminishing the quality of care. To look at this further, we studied patients with PS=3–4 diagnosed at our large lung cancer unit (all-patients tissue diagnosis rate >80%), comparing their tissue diagnosis rate with treatment offered and ultimate outcome.

Methods All 108 patients (57 male) with PS=3–4 (18 PS=4) diagnosed at our unit during 2009 formed the study population (25% of total diagnoses). Eighty-eight diagnostic procedures were attempted in 72 patients (66%), and were successful in 59 of these (82%) (15 small cell, 40 non-small cell, 4 other malignancies).

Results Although a tissue diagnosis was more likely to be attempted in those with PS=3 than 4 (66/90 vs 6/18, $\chi^2=10.8$, $p<0.01$), it was no more likely to be successful (54/66 vs 5/6, $\chi^2=0.1$, $p=NS$). Those with a tissue diagnosis were more likely to be offered chemo or radiotherapy (active treatment) (28/59 vs 5/49, $\chi^2=17.5$, $p<0.001$), with the remaining patients benefiting from best supportive care (BSC). Furthermore, Kaplan–Meier plots (censored at 150 days) demonstrated that those who underwent active treatment had an improved clinical outcome (median survival: treated group 81 days [IQR 48–143] vs BSC group 16 days [6–56], $p<0.001$).

Conclusions This audit shows that patients with a poor performance state who undergo some form of active treatment gain a survival benefit. For clinical governance reasons, active treatment is unlikely to be offered to patients without a tissue diagnosis, underlining the need to appropriately investigate this patient group wherever possible. We achieved a tissue diagnosis rate of 55%, and exhort other lung cancer units to adopt a similar approach to improve the clinical journey of these unfortunate and sometimes under treated patients.

P219 IS THERE A ROLE FOR CONVENTIONAL TRANSBRONCHIAL NEEDLE ASPIRATION IN THE ENDOBRONCHIAL ULTRASOUND ERA?

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Introduction and Objectives It is believed by some that endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) will render conventional transbronchial needle aspiration (cTBNA) obsolete. We sought to explore this question.

Methods Data on both conventional ($n=33$) and a randomly selected equal number of EBUS-guided TBNA ($n=33$), performed to

biopsy mediastinal lymph nodes (LN), between August 2008 and May 2010, were extracted from a prospective database of bronchoscopy procedures. Measured variables were age, sex, sampled LN stations and sizes, sample results and final diagnoses for LN and underlying patient diagnosis.

Results Thirty-eight LN from 4 different LN stations in the cTBNA group and 46 LN from 5 different LN stations in the EBUS group were sampled. LN were significantly larger in the cTBNA group (median 2.65 cm, range 0.90–7.00 cm) compared to the EBUS-TBNA group (median 1.45 cm, range 0.60–3.00 cm; $p<0.001$). Accurate diagnoses were obtained in 29/33 (88%) cTBNA cases and 26/33 (79%) EBUS-TBNA ($p=0.51$, Fisher's exact test). cTBNA confirmed 23 lung cancers, 1 lymphoma, 3 benign conditions and 2 true negative cases confirmed surgically. Four false negative LN samples were diagnosed with lung cancer ($n=3$) and sarcoidosis ($n=1$) by other methods. EBUS-TBNA provided an accurate diagnosis in 26 patients (lung cancer, $n=14$; other malignancy, $n=2$; benign cases, $n=7$; true negative, $n=3$). Five false negative cases were subsequently diagnosed with lymphoma ($n=1$), lung cancer ($n=3$) and other malignancy ($n=1$). One non-diagnostic sample without further diagnostic clarification was considered false negative. A further sample with possible malignant cell contamination was considered false positive.

Discussion In a centre with access to both techniques, selected patients with mediastinal or hilar lymphadenopathy can be investigated with cTBNA without compromising diagnostic accuracy. Across the UK, cTBNA is potentially widely available, and requires minimal capital investment compared to EBUS-TBNA. We believe that cTBNA remains an attractive first-line diagnostic procedure for chest physicians.

P220 HIGH PREVALENCE OF MALIGNANCY IN HIV INFECTED PATIENTS WITH ENLARGED MEDIASTINAL LYMPHADENOPATHY

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Introduction Intra-thoracic lymphadenopathy is commonly observed in patients infected with HIV. The broad range of aetiologies and the non-specific clinical picture constitute a diagnostic challenge which has not been previously addressed. Therefore we aimed to identify the causes of mediastinal lymphadenopathy in HIV infected patients presenting to our specialist unit and to characterise their mode of diagnosis.

Methods We conducted a retrospective analytical cohort study of HIV positive patients who underwent CT scanning of the chest between January 2004 and December 2008. Each patient was followed clinically for at least 12 months.

Results 234 consecutive patients underwent chest CT in the study period. Employing the conventional CT cut-off for significant lymphadenopathy of 10 mm in short-axis, mediastinal lymphadenopathy was present in 49 (21%) patients. In these 49 patients, the mean age was 40 (range 19–69) years. 43 patients were male and 24 of the male patients were homosexual. 25 (51%) of patients were receiving antiretroviral therapy and 24 patients had a CD4 lymphocyte count below 250 cells $\times 10^6/l$. A specific diagnosis was made in 42 cases. Lymphoma was the most common diagnosis with 9 cases, followed by TB with seven cases. Six patients had reactive lymphadenopathy secondary to pneumonia. There were four cases of Castleman's disease, four of malignancy and three of non-

tuberculous mycobacterial infection. In total, 13 patients (31%) were diagnosed with cancer. Extra-thoracic lymphadenopathy documented by CT was present in 26 (53%) of patients, including in seven cases of lymphoma and in all cases of Castleman's disease. The diagnosis was established by histopathology in 57% of cases, by clinical follow-up in 19% and by microbiology in 7%. USS guided peripheral lymph node biopsy was the preferred biopsy method in 16 cases. Surgical biopsy was performed in seven cases and EBUS-TBNA in two cases.

Conclusions Mediastinal lymphadenopathy is common in HIV positive patients undergoing CT scanning of the thorax and can be associated with a wide range of conditions. However, the prevalence of malignancy is high in this setting, emphasising the need for a pathological diagnosis.

P221 DISTAL AIRWAY BACTERIAL COLONISATION IN PATIENTS WITH LUNG CANCER

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Introduction Patients with lung cancer are at higher risk of pulmonary infection due to immunosuppression and impaired function of the natural protective mechanisms which can have an impact on oncological treatment and survival. Aims: To assess the proportion of potentially pathogenic microorganisms (PPM) that colonise the bronchial tree in patients with primary lung cancer.

Methods A bronchoscopic study of 165 patients (101 M and 64 F) aged from 31 to 96 (mean 69 years) with confirmed malignancy on bronchial sampling was conducted from January 2005 to July 2010. In all patients, bronchial washings (BW) were performed during bronchoscopy. Obtained BW fluid was subjected to microbiological examination and culture by the semi-quantitative method. A diagnostic level of >100 colony forming units (CFU) was set. Computed tomography thorax scans were also assessed for radiological signs of pneumonia.

Results In 27 (16.4%) of 165 patients, bronchial colonisation of PPM was >100 CFU. In 28 patients (17.0%), the culture of PPM was <100 CFU. The presence of fungi and upper respiratory tract flora was confirmed in 24 (14.5%) and 35 (21.2%) patients, respectively. Mycobacterium Tuberculosis was negative in the 159 patients that had been tested and Mycobacterium Fortuitum was isolated in one patient. Sixteen (9.7%) patients were colonised with Gram positive PPM. The most frequently isolated PPM was Coliform (n=9, 5.5%) followed by *Staphylococcus aureus* (n=8, 5%) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (n=5, 3.0%). Bronchial colonisation of PPM was highest in patients with small cell lung carcinoma (5/26, 19.2%) and similar between primary adenocarcinoma (4/30, 13.3%) and squamous cell carcinoma (12/82, 14.6%). Four multi-drug resistant strains of bacteria (2.4%) including MRSA (n=2) were isolated. In five patients (3.0%), the bronchial tree was colonised simultaneously by two or more types of PPM. A third (9/27) of patients with PPM also had radiological evidence of pneumonia.

Conclusions Less than 20% of patients with lung cancer had bronchial colonisation of microorganisms above the assumed diagnostic level. Approximately two-thirds had colonisation with Gram-positive bacteria in their distal airways. Bronchial bacterial colonisation appears to be slightly higher in patients with small cell lung cancer. The identification of potentially pathogenic microorganisms in the distal airways of lung cancer patients, especially at the time of diagnosis, is clinically important before deciding future management strategies. An empirical antibiotics policy would be useful in these patients.

P222 A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF DISEASE RECURRENCE POST THORACOTOMY FOR NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

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Background Surgery is the treatment of choice for early stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). However, curative intent is commonly not achieved due to inaccurate clinical staging and disease recurrence.

Aim We aimed to determine the incidence of futile thoracotomies (FT) in patients with NSCLC following surgery with curative intent. In addition, we wished to identify prognostic factors that predicted FT.

Methods In this analytical retrospective cohort study, thoracotomy cases between October 2003 and September 2008 at a single institution were identified. Confirmed cases of primary NSCLC only were included. A thoracotomy was deemed futile if any one of the following criteria were met: pathologically confirmed N2, N3, or M1 disease, an exploratory thoracotomy, or a thoracotomy in a patient who developed recurrent disease or died within 1 year of surgery. When a PET scan was performed, the SUVmax of the primary tumour was reported by a radiologist blinded to the clinical information. Case notes and hospital systems were interrogated for evidence of recurrence and survival. Statistical analysis was performed with STATA version 10 for Windows.

Results We identified 171 consecutive patients with NSCLC who underwent lung resection with curative intent. 105 (61%) were male and mean age at the time of surgery was 66 years. 134 (78%) had lobectomy, 8 bi-lobectomy, 19 pneumonectomy and 10 sub-lobe resection (segmentectomy or wedge resection). Overall 46 (27%) underwent FT. Nine patients (5.2%) had clinically unsuspected N2 disease at pathological staging. An SUVmax of the primary tumour greater than 8 was associated with an increased risk of FT (RR 2.35 (p=0.03)) (Abstract P222 Table 1). The presence of lymphovascular invasion was also associated with a increased risk of FT (RR 1.71 (p=0.04)). Those with a primary tumour greater than or equal to 3 cm in size had a RR of 1.91 (p=0.02) of FT.

Abstract P222 Table 1 Risk factors for futile thoracotomy

	Futile thoracotomy		Number of patients	p-Value
	Yes	No		
SUVmax*				
≥8	23	39	100	0.025
<8	6	32		
Vascular invasion				
Yes	25	45	171	0.036
No	21	80		
Adenocarcinoma				
Yes	22	63	171	0.863
No	24	62		
Tumour size†				
≥3 cm	32	57	158	0.021
<3 cm	13	56		
Sub-lobe resection				
Yes	2	8	171	1.000
No	44	117		
Gender				
Male	32	73	171	0.217
Female	14	52		

*71 patients did not undergo pre-operative PET scan.

†Primary tumour size unavailable in 13 patients.