

Application of Fibrin Sealant (Tisseel) Via Bronchoscopy in the Management of Postlobectomy Bronchopleural Fistula Printed in Turkish Respiratory Journal

To the Editor,

I read with interest the recent case report by Eyübođlu et al. In our thoracic surgery center we perform different strategies in the treatment of fistulas that occur after lobectomy and we have obtained quite good results. The fistulas that occur after lobectomy tend to close spontaneously. We therefore prefer a conservative approach at the beginning of the clinical symptoms and apply anterior tube drainage with a negative suction system. With this treatment we are usually able to expand the lung and reduce the subcutaneous emphysema. We apply Aethoxysklerol 2% via bronchoscopy to fistulas when there is no clinical improvement or when the patient's status deteriorates. At times we also use submucosal Aethoxysklerol 2% to accelerate the closure of fistulas which tend to close spontaneously. The application of Tisseel is a technique that we have also performed in the past but we have given up this method. As you also have experienced, frequently the Tisseel material can easily separate from the fistula opening with the coughing reflex and the result is unsuccessful. Especially the Tisseel that is applied to postpneumonectomy fistulas tends to separate from the fistula opening and can easily be aspirated to the contralateral lung causing morbidity and mortality.

In our thoracic surgery center we have applied Tisseel to 12 of the postresection fistula cases. The results were unsuccessful except in a case with left pneumonectomy. We found that the application of Aethoxysklerol 2% which we have used in 7 consecutive cases is a more effective inexpensive method which carries less risk when compared with the Tisseel application (2).

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Reference

1. Eyübođlu FÖ, Torgoy A, Akçay Ş, et al. Application of fibrin sealant (Tisseel) via bronchoscopy in the management of a postlobectomy bronchopleural fistula. Turkish Resp. J 2001 May; 2(1).
2. Varoli F, Roviario G, Grignani F, et al. Endoscopic treatment of bronchopleural fistulas. Ann Thorac Surg 1998 Mar; 65(3): 807-9.

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2. Collins J, Dhillon P, Goldstraw P. Practical bronchoscopy. 1st Ed. London: Blackwell Scientific Publications; 1987.
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