



The Role of Chest Ultrasonography in Pleural Diseases

Thesis

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List of Contents

	<i>Page No.</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Aim of the work</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Review of Literature:</i>	
- <i>Pleural Anatomy</i>	<i>5</i>
- <i>Sonographic manifestation of Pleural diseases</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Patients and methods</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Results</i>	<i>102</i>
<i>Illustrative Cases</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>131</i>
<i>Summary and Conclusion</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>137</i>
<i>Arabic Summary</i>	<i>—</i>

List of Abbreviations

AP	Antero- posterior
ARDS	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARF	Acute respiratory failure
BLUS	Bedside lung ultrasonography
CDUS	Color Doppler ultrasound
Cm	Centimeter
CT	Computed tomography
CXR	Chest X- ray
F	French gauge
Fig.	Figure
FU	Fluorouracil
G	Gauge
H	Hour
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
ICU	Intensive care unite
IL-8	Interleukin -8
INR	International normalized ratio
IPCs	Indwelling pleural catheters
IPFT	Intrapleural fibrinolytic therapy
IU	International unit
IV	Intravenous
KHz	Kilo Hertz
L	Litter
MHz	Millie Hertz
Min	Minutes
ml	Milliliter
mm	Millimetre
MPE	Malignant pleural effusion
MPEs	Malignant pleural effusions

MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
NTM	Needle tract metastasis
PC	Prothrombin concentration
PE	Pleural effusion
PPS	Pleuroperitoneal shunting
PT	Prothrombin time
PTX	Pneumothorax
PU	Pleural ultrasonography
RICU	Respiratory intensive care unite
Sec	Second
TB	Tuberculosis
US	Ultrasonography
VS	Versus

List of Figures

<i>Fig. No.</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Fig. (1): Anatomy of pleural cavity	6
Fig. (2): pleura-surfaces and recesses	9
Fig. (3): The typical appearance of a normal chest on US	10
Fig. (4): Bat sign	11
Fig. (5): Typical lung ultrasound image showing normal ribs	12
Fig. (6): A-lines in normal chest US.....	14
Fig. (7): Comet-tail artifact.....	16
Fig. (8): V-Lines	18
Fig. (9): Lung curtain.....	19
Fig. (10): Seashore sign B & M-mode.....	20
Fig. (11): Seashore sign	21
Fig. (12): Normal thymus	25
Fig. (13): Examination techniques & positions	27
Fig. (14): The four Volpicelli's zones	29
Fig. (15): Longitudinal and oblique scanning of the chest	30
Fig. (16): Sonographic appearance of pleural effusion.....	36
Fig. (17): X-ray (A) and ultrasound (B) of pleural effusion and lung collapse	37
Fig. (18): Chest color Doppler ultrasonography with linear probe	39

Fig. (19): Sinosoid sign.....	40
Fig. (20): Placement of US probe for V-line visualization.....	41
Fig. (21): Lung ultrasound demonstrating V line	41
Fig. (22): M-mode scan of a mass	43
Fig. (23): Pleural empyema	44
Fig. (24): Lung abscess	46
Fig. (25): Pleural nodule	50
Fig. (26): Pleuritis in a patient with viral infection with only slight thickening of the pleura.....	51
Fig. (27): Pleural thickening US appears as a hypoechoic band	53
Fig. (28): Pleural tumor with polypoid pleural nodule.....	54
Fig. (29): This ultrasound image of the left lower chest demonstrates biopsy proven malignant pleural mesothelioma.....	55
Fig. (30): Left chest ultrasound in this patient demonstrated localized pleural thickening malignant mesothelioma	55
Fig. (31): Probe positions for a PTX scan	60
Fig. (32): Lung pulse from right mainstem intubation	61
Fig. (33): M-mode US showing Stratosphere or Bar Code sign.....	62
Fig. (34): Seashore sign.....	63
Fig. (35): M-mode of normal lung US showing the seashore sign versus M-mode of PTX showing the barcode or stratosphere sign	63
Fig. (36): Pneumothorax US algorithm	65
Fig. (37): (A&B) Thoracentesis.....	67

Fig. (38): Posterior & lateral thoracentesis approaches with typical puncture site.....	69
Fig. (39): Supine and lateral recumbent positions for thoracentesis.....	70
Fig. (40): Ideal site for needle trajectory above the rib	71
Fig. (41): Triangle of safety for insertion of chest drain	75
Fig. (42): Common positions for chest drain insertion.....	76
Fig. (43): Pleural biopsy	87
Fig. (44): GE LOGIQ 9 ultrasound scanner	95
Fig. (45) A : Semi-automatic biopsy device	96
Fig. (45) B : Reusable biopsy system.....	96
Fig. (46) : Fine needle aspiration cytology	96
Fig. (47): Diagram showing the US-guided cutting biopsy technique for lesions less than 20mm in diameter.....	100
Fig. (48): Sex distribution of the studied group.....	102
Fig. (49): Age distribution of the studied group.	104
Fig. (50): Complaint of the studied group.	104
Fig. (51): Different pleural pathologies as detected by ultrasonography	105
Fig. (52): Pleural interventions types.....	106
Fig. (53): Types of pleural abnormalities.	107
Fig. (54): Benign versus malignant.....	108
Fig. (55): Sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of chest US, X-ray and CT.	110

Fig. (56): Plain chest X-ray PA view showing, subtotal opacification of right hemi thorax due to pleural effusion and mild mediastinal shift to the left.	111
Fig. (57): CT scan of the chest, axial cut mediastinal window showing, moderate right pleural effusion.	111
Fig. (58): Chest US showing moderate right pleural effusion and pig tail catheter for thoracocentesis.	112
Fig. (59): Plain chest X-ray PA view showing, mild to moderate right pleural effusion.....	113
Fig. (60): CT chest axial cut mediastinal window with contrast showing, right pleural effusion.	113
Fig. (61): (A & B): showing moderate right pleural effusion.....	114
Fig. (62): Plain chest X-ray PA view showing, right side tension pneumothorax.	115
Fig. (63): Chest US showing : (A) A-lines’ and (B) M-mode the ‘stratosphere sign’	115
Fig. (64): Plain chest X-ray PA negative view showing, right side chest tube (pig tail).	116
Fig. (65): Plain chest x –ray AP view showing, right side lung multiple opacity and cavitary lesions.	117
Fig. (66): CT chest axial cut mediastinal window with contrast showing, right upper lobe posterior consolidation and pulmonary-pleural cavity.....	117
Fig. (67): Chest US showing: A- multiple right lung cavitary lesions with minimal vascularity by color Doppler.....	118
Fig. (68): Chest X-ray PA view showing left side opacification due to pleural effusion.	119

Fig. (69): CT chest axial cut mediastinal window showing left side pleural effusion with increase echogenicity due to haemorrhage.	119
Fig. (70): Chest US showing left side pleural effusion with internal echoes due to haemorrhage (left side hemothorax).	120
Fig. (71): Plain Chest X-ray PA and lateral view showing right lung middle zone pleural based mass.	121
Fig. (72): CT chest axial cut mediastinal window with contrast showing right side nearly well defined lobulated pleural based with homogeneous enhanced soft tissue mass lesion.....	121
Fig. (73): Chest US showing A- Color Doppler of the right side pleural hypoechoic mass B- True-cut biopsy for right side pleural mass.	122
Fig. (74): Plain chest X-ray PA and Lateral view showing irregular opacification of left lung.....	123
Fig. (75): A&B axial cut of CT chest mediastinal window with contrast, showing circumferential left side pleural thickening, pleural nodularity and left lung collapse.....	123
Fig. (76): Chest US showing left pleural thickening and nodularity.	124
Fig. (77): Chest X-ray PA view showing left side pleural effusion..	125
Fig. (78): Multiple axial cut of CT chest mediastinal window with contrast, showing left lung consolidation with air bronchogram, left pleural free and loculated effusion with marginal enhancement (empyema).....	125
Fig. (79): Chest US showing left pleural effusion with thick septation (empyema).....	126
Fig. (80): Chest X-ray PA view was normal..	127

- Fig. (81):** Axial cut CT chest mediastinal window with contrast showing right upper side posterir enhancing pleural nodule.127
- Fig. (82):** Chest US showing true- cut needle biopsy for right side pleural nodule..128
- Fig. (83):** Chest X-ray PA view showing diffuse bilateral variable size pulmonary nodules and right side pleural effusion.129
- Fig. (84):** Axial cut CT chest mediastinal window with contrast showing right pleural effusion and pleural nodules.....129
- Fig. (85):** Chest US showing right side pleural effusion, right lower lobe lung collapse and multiple pleural nodules deposits.. ...130

List of Tables

<i>Table No.</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Table (1): Line patterns seen in lung ultrasound and their corresponding clinical significance.	21
Table (2): Ultrasound quantification of pleural effusion.....	35
Table (3): Cardinal Signs for Ultrasonographic Diagnosis of Pleural Effusions:.....	37
Table (4): Nature of pleural effusion.....	42
Table (5): Ultrasound patterns and the nature of pleural effusion	44
Table (6): Sonographic findings in pleuritis.....	52
Table (7): Evaluation for pneumothorax	64
Table (8): Terms and Definitions Associated With Ultrasonographic Detection of Pneumothorax	65
Table (9): Summary of Steps in Ultrasound Guided Thoracentesis	73
Table (10): Agents of pleurodesis	81
Table (11): Age distribution of the studied group.	103
Table (12): Sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV and accuracy of chest US, X-ray and CT.....	110

Introduction

Lung ultrasound has become part of the diagnostic armamentarium in Resuscitation and Recovery Units with an enormous potential due to its many advantages: capacity to diagnose more precisely than conventional radiology, earlier diagnosis, convenience due to being able to performed at the bedside, possibility of being performed by one person, absence of ionising radiation, and, due to its dynamic character, is capable of transforming into physiological processes that were once static images **(Gordon & Alcorta , 2015).**

Pleural effusions and haematomas can be visualised. Despite the physical laws of ultrasound, approximately 70% of the pleural surface can be accessed by sonography **(Mathis, 2004).**

Ultrasound has a higher accuracy in detecting pleural effusion in comparison with bedside chest X-rays (93% vs. 47%). In fact, chest X-rays can detect the presence of pleural effusion in patients in the orthostatic position only if the volume of the effusion is at least 200 mL, whereas ultrasound can detect effusions as small as 20 mL **(Prina, Torres &Carvalho, 2014).**

Pleural aspiration, biopsy and drainage are all proven to be safer and more efficacious using image guidance **(Matin & Gleeson, 2011)**.

Although small, freely flowing parapneumonic effusions can be drained by therapeutic thoracentesis, complicated parapneumonic effusions or empyemas require image guided drainage **(Rubins et al, 2014)**.

Pleural ultrasonography (PU) is more sensitive than chest radiograph (CXR) for diagnosing pneumothorax and could be useful for detecting resolution of pneumothorax after drainage **(Galbois et al, 2010)**.

In ultrasound, pleural tumors are well-defined, hypoechoic or echogenic solid nodular lesions located in the parietal or visceral pleura. Primary neoplasms of the pleura are rare except for benign and malignant mesothelioma.

Metastatic pleural tumors or Mesothelioma can appear as polypoid pleural nodules or sheet like pleural thickening combined with pleural effusion sometimes, differentiation between pleural fibrosis and pleural tumor is difficult by US. A US-guided core needle biopsy is very helpful for pathologic diagnosis of pleural tumors **(Tsai& Yang, 2003)**.

In addition, ultrasound allows the identification of adjacent structures: chest wall, hemidiaphragm (over the liver or spleen), and visceral pleural surface. This is important, especially in the case of an invasive procedure, in order to avoid organ injury **(Prina, Torres & Carvalho 2014)**.