



Understanding Lobectomy: A Surgical Approach to Treat the Lung Conditions

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ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 31-Mar-2023, Manuscript No. EJMACES-23-98614;
Editor assigned: 03-Apr-2023, PreQC No. EJMACES-23-98614
(PQ); Reviewed: 18-Apr-2023, QC No. EJMACES-23-98614;
Revised: 25-Apr-2023, Manuscript No. EJMACES-23-98614 (R);
Published: 02-May-2023

Description

Lobectomy is a surgical procedure in which one or more lobes of the lung are removed. This procedure is usually done to treat lung cancer, but it can also be used to treat other lung diseases, such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and tuberculosis. This study discusses about the indications, preparation, and recovery of lobectomy.

Indications

Lobectomy is usually performed when lung cancer is diagnosed in one or more of the lobes of the lung. The procedure is also used to treat other conditions, such as benign tumors, tuberculosis, and abscesses in the lung. The decision to perform lobectomy depends on the type and stage of the lung cancer, as well as the patient's overall health and lung function.

Preparation

Before undergoing lobectomy, the patient will undergo a series of tests to evaluate their lung function and overall health. These tests may include chest X-rays, CT scans, blood tests, pulmonary function tests, and Electro Cardio Grams (ECGs). The patient will also be asked to stop smoking and avoid taking blood-thinning medications, such as aspirin and warfarin, for several days before the procedure.

On the day of the surgery, the patient will be given general anesthesia, which will put them to sleep and prevent them from feeling any pain during the procedure.

Procedure

During lobectomy, the surgeon will make an incision in the chest to access the affected lobe or lobes of the lung. The surgeon will then remove the lobe or lobes, along with any nearby lymph nodes that may contain cancer cells.

Main types of lobectomy

Open lobectomy: This is the traditional method of performing lobectomy. The surgeon makes a large incision in the chest to access the lung.

Video-assisted thoracic surgery: This is a minimally invasive technique in which the surgeon makes several small incisions in the chest and uses a video camera to guide the surgery.

Robotic-assisted thoracic surgery: This is a type of minimally invasive surgery in which the surgeon uses a robotic system to perform the surgery.

Recovery

After the surgery, the patient will be closely monitored in the hospital for several days. They may have a chest tube inserted to drain any fluid or air that may accumulate in the chest. Pain medication will be given to manage any discomfort or pain.

The patient will be encouraged to start walking and doing breathing exercises as soon as possible after the surgery to prevent complications such as blood clots and pneumonia. They may also be referred to a pulmonary rehabilitation program to help them regain lung function.

Most patients can return to normal activities within four to six weeks after the surgery. However, it may take several months to fully recover from lobectomy.

Complications

As with any surgery, lobectomy carries some risks and potential complications. These may include bleeding, infection, blood clots, and damage to nearby organs or structures. In rare cases, the patient may experience a collapsed lung or require additional surgery.

Lobectomy is a major surgical procedure that is used to treat lung cancer and other lung diseases. The decision to perform lobectomy depends on the type

and stage of the disease, as well as the patient's overall health and lung function. The procedure can be done using open surgery, or robotic-assisted surgery.

Recovery from lobectomy can take several weeks to several months, and patients will be closely monitored for potential complications.