

Intrapleural palliativ treatment of malignant pleural effusion with talcum versus placebo(pleuraltube alone)

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Summary

Malignant pleural effusions (MPE) are frequently a complication of malignant disease. Therefore we initiated a prospective randomised study on the treatment of MPE with intrapleural talcum versus placebo (pleural tube alone) to compare response, response duration and quality of life between both groups. Between 1/1997 until 1/1999 61 patients were included, 33 received talcum, the other 28 patients underwent pleural tube alone. The response rate was 85% in talcumgroup and 100% in placebogroup respectively. There was no statistically significant difference in response duration or survival time between both groups but quality of life was better without talcum installation.