

SAFETY IN MEDIASTINUM PERCUTANEOUS PROCEDURES. COMPILATION OF MAIN ACCESS ROUTES

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BACKGROUND

Percutaneous computed tomography (CT) guided approach of mediastinal lesions is a minimally invasive and widely accepted procedure. Precise planning and detailed knowledge of anatomical aspects is mandatory to avoid complications.

HYPOTHESIS

Computed tomography (CT) is established as the best imaging method for mediastinal percutaneous guidance. It gives access to all mediastinal compartments, including those that are inaccessible with other alternative methods, such as mediastinoscopy, transbronchial and endoscopic ultrasound-guided approach. It also gives information about needle trajectory and allows localization of target lesions, avoiding inadvertent puncture of vascular structures or vital organs and minimizing the risk of complications. Different approaches have been advocated, including extrapleural (parasternal, paravertebral, trans-sternal and subxiphoid) and transpulmonary.

METHODS

Mediastinal CT-guided percutaneous procedures will be presented, including needle biopsies and a collection drainages. Various approaches will be described, highlighting the technique and safety aspects.

RESULTS

Percutaneous CT-guided assessment of mediastinal lesions is an accurate, safe and cost-effective strategy. This pictorial essay will present technical, anatomical and safety aspects related to the procedure.