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“A Retrospective Comparison Between the Intervention of Tissue Plasminogen Activator and Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery”

The occurrence of a hemothorax following thoracic trauma is common, and in most cases can be successfully drained by the insertion of chest tubes. However, some of these patients will develop a retained hemothorax and will require surgical drainage. These drainage surgeries risk infections and extensive bleeding. Because performing multiple surgeries enhances the risk of serious complications, research promotes the nonsurgical intervention of administering a dose of tissue plasminogen enzyme or tPA and deoxyribonuclease or DNase. Research on tPA shows that it is a safe option, but its effectiveness with successfully clearing a retained hemothorax can be questioned. Previous research does not compare tPA to any of the golden standards of surgical interventions. This study is comparing tPA to video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery. VATS is a minimally invasion surgery that is known for its consistency in successfully treating hemothoraces. Ending the debate regarding the better treatment.