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Search Strategies: Role of Endobronchial Ultrasound with Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy in the Diagnosis of Thymic Carcinoma; Case Report and Review of Literature

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Purpose:

To search in the PubMed and Web of Science databases to identify similar reports and confirm the hypothesis that we have a unique report.

PubMed:

To initiate the searches in PubMed, on September 20, 2013 relevant MeSH terms were linked to different articles related to the subject. The articles of interest were identified by the following combined text word searches:

Table 1:

Search	Text Word	References
1	Thymoma[tw] OR Thymus[tw]	77029
2	Neoplasm*[tw] OR Cancer*[tw] OR Carcin*[tw]	2399413
3	Combine searches 1 AND 2	15745
4	EBUS[tw]	588
5	Combine searches 3 AND 4	2

This search strategy revealed references to two articles⁽¹⁻²⁾. Moomin MT, et al. describes one case of thymic carcinoma on retrospective review of 1458 EBUS cases. The article by Herth FJ, et al. is not pertinent to current search.

The two aforementioned references revealed the possible MeSH terms “Thymoma” and “Bronchoscopy”. The following search strategy: “Thymoma” AND “Bronchoscopy” further filtered to English language revealed 3 references to peer reviewed articles (3-5). Benton SM, et al. and Sakuraba M, et al. describe endobronchial metastases of Thymic Carcinoma. The article by Caramori G, et al. is not pertinent to our search.

A third search strategy on September 20, 2013 combining the MeSH terms “Thymoma” AND “Biopsy, Fine needle” identified 27 references. These articles focus on histopathology and cytological classification of Thymoma or Thymic Carcinoma. This search strategy was again repeated with the MeSH terms “Thymic, neoplasms” and “Biopsy, Fine needle” revealed 39 references. Reviewing these 39 references produced no additional article that addressed the utility of EBUS in the diagnosis of Thymic Carcinoma or Thymoma.

Web of Knowledge:

A search of Web of Knowledge with the “All Databases” search option identified three references, but no additional reference pertinent to the current search. The search strategy consisted of the following text word approaches:

Topic=(endobronch*) AND Topic=(ultraso*) AND Topic=(Thymic Carcinom*)
Timespan=All years Search language=English

References:

- 1: Moonim MT, Breen R, Gill-Barman B, Santis G. Diagnosis and subclassification of thymoma by minimally invasive fine needle aspiration directed by endobronchial ultrasound: a review and discussion of four cases. *Cytopathology*. 2012 Aug;23(4):220-8. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2303.2012.01007.x.
- 2: Herth FJ, Morgan RK, Eberhardt R, Ernst A. Endobronchial ultrasound-guided miniforceps biopsy in the biopsy of subcarinal masses in patients with low likelihood of non-small cell lung cancer. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2008 Jun;85(6):1874-8. doi: 10.1016/j.athoracsur.2008.02.031.
- 3: Benton SM Jr, Rogers RP 3rd, Reed CE. Invasive thymoma with endobronchial metastasis. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2010 Feb;89(2):612-4. doi: 10.1016/j.athoracsur.2009.06.118.
- 4: Caramori G, Calia N, Pasquini C, Arar O, Ravenna F, Guzzinati I, Boniotti A, Cavazzini L, Ciaccia A, Cavallesco G, Papi A. Ectopic thymoma simulating a pericardial cyst. *Monaldi Arch Chest Dis*. 2005 Dec;63(4):230-3.
- 5: Sakuraba M, Sagara Y, Tamura A, Park Z, Hebisawa A, Komatsu H. A case of invasive thymoma with endobronchial growth. *Ann Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2005 Apr;11(2):114-6.