Reviewer’s report

Title: Vacuum-Assisted Closure Therapy in the Management of Lung Abscess

Version: 2  Date: 26 July 2014

Reviewer: Thomas Lesser

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions

The known pneumotomy was used for the open treatment of caverns in the area of operative therapy of lung tuberculosis. However, in conjunction with the vacuum assisted closure these technique could be a new promising option for the treatment of complicated lung abscesses. The authors describe a novel application of a Mini-VAC in case of a lung abscess, in which a primary conservative and interventional therapy failed. This case report demonstrates a highly effective minimal invasive therapy to avoid a thoracotomy with wedge or anatomical resections. Our experiences confirm the insufficient success rate for permanent healing by percutaneous CT guided abscess drainage.

The patient was discharged on the 11th postoperative day. I think, there is a great interest to know how are the long term results in about 3 months. I believe this method has some limitations. It is difficult to achieve lung abscesses localized paravertebral, paramediastinal or apical. A prerequisite is the pleural adhesion in the field of pneumotomy to avoid the contamination of the pleural cavity.

In compliance with the vacuum-assisted closure therapy is a promising new method in the management of lung abscesses. The advantages of this minimal invasive method could be further enhanced if it is done in local anesthesia.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.