



Innovation in awake VATS

We are pleased to introduce you this issue devoted to awake thoracic surgery.

Undoubtedly, *video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS)* is the most common innovation in the field of thoracic surgery of the last 20 years. Although the operations performed by *VATS* are equivalent to those performed in open surgery, modifications of the technique include the number and position of the ports, and type of anesthesia. In this context, we, expert thoracic surgeons, are always looking for a better way to operate patients who cannot receive general anesthesia.

The evolution of *VATS* from multi to uniportal access paralleled to awake non-general non-intubated anesthesia permits nowadays successfully minor and major thoracic procedures. As a whole, these inseparable technological and surgical progresses engender more confidence into the patients, especially older, who are keener to accept the proposed awake thoracic procedure. Though surgeons who want embarking in awake thoracic surgery are looking for consistent data in favor of this approach, there are very few data and most published experiences raise questions instead of giving answers. Hence, this special issue, which includes also outstanding videos, will serve to the modern and next generation of surgeons as a milestone from where to build their knowledge and experience.

We would like to thank our expert colleagues who share with us the importance of disseminating their experience, and the awake solutions for difficult patients who cannot receive general anesthesia. Finally, we also would like to thank *VATS* journal not only for letting us organize and finish this special issue but also for the outstanding work done by all the staff.

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