



## Malignant pleural effusions

Malignant pleural effusions are a serious complication of advanced cancer and are often associated with a poor prognosis. A quick diagnostic phase is therefore essential. Imaging techniques allow us to accurately establish the extent of the pleural effusion but not its nature. To define it, the cytological examination of the pleural fluid is important. However, this method determines a diagnostic prompt response only in 2/3 of cases; thus, histological examination through video-assisted pleural biopsies is necessary. Malignant pleural effusions are often associated with respiratory symptoms, which require immediate treatment. Unfortunately, all approaches are only palliative but are still essential for maintaining the patient's respiratory balance. Thoracentesis or pleural drainage are life-saving maneuvers but the target of treatment is an improvement of quality of life, implementing all the necessary skills in order to ensure respiratory stability as long as possible. The aim of this series is to identify the best strategies in order to reduce the discomfort of patient, minimizing the impact of the underlying disease on everyday life.

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