

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1: I understand the decision to start the surgery with cardiologic time. Probably, in case of difficult surgery or complications, the pulmonary time could be abandoned for another opportunity. A detail that facilitates lobectomy in this case is that bronchiectasis with complete destruction of the middle lobe commonly involves the existence of an almost complete pulmonary fissure. Furthermore, the choice of a patient with suppurative disease eliminates the need to address other parts of the pulmonary hilum, for example, in the case of a neoplasm in which lymphadenectomy is mandatory.

Reply 1: We thank the reviewer for this comment. Indeed, the decision to start with cardiac part was dictated by the complexity of the procedure compared to lobectomy, extensive preoperative preparation with necessity of cardiac bypass, and high risk of complication which could compromise a pulmonary part.

Comment 2: An important criticism is that to be considered a VATS approach the use of active retraction of the ribs should not be used and in this case an active retractor can be seen placed over the flexible tissue retractor.

Reply 2: We thank the reviewer for this comment. We agree that any type of retractors should not be used during VATS. In this case, retractor was used during cardiac part only for the access to retract soft tissues. Alexis was used for VATS.

Reviewer B

Comment 1: Can you show or comment on the additional incision for aortic cross-clamping?

Reply 1: We thank the reviewer for this comment. Additional incision for aortic cross-clamping was made in 5th intercostal space along the posterior axillary line. We used this incision for drain placement at the end of the procedure.

Changes in the text (page 4, lines 70-72): Cross-clamping of the aorta was achieved with Chitwood clamp through separate incision in 5th intercostal space along the posterior axillary line with subsequent antegrade cardioplegia.

Comment 2: Do you have a video? This would be, e.g. as supplementary data, of high interest.

Reply 2: Unfortunately, we do not have a video for this case.