Management of recalcitrant or massive subcutaneous emphysema after pulmonary resection

Principals:
Avoid unnecessary pain/ procedures for patients
Early identification of patients who would benefit from thoracoscopy
Manage length of admission

Key References:


Massive subcutaneous emphysema after pulmonary resection

Assure indwelling intra-pleural tube functioning correctly

Increase intra-pleural tube suction

± CT scan
- ± Place additional intra-pleural tube or small bore catheter
- ± Consider reopening thoracoscopy port
- ± Placement of subcutaneous catheter

Reoperate:
- Flexible bronchoscopy
- Pleural exploration

= failure of prior maneuver