

Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Title:

Neurovascular complications post bronchial artery embolisation in patients with cystic fibrosis. A 7-year single centre retrospective review

Lay Title:

Complications associated with treatment of haemoptysis in adults with cystic fibrosis

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What was your research question?

What complications are associated with treatment of haemoptysis in adults with cystic fibrosis.

Why is this important?

Haemoptysis (coughing up blood) is one of the complications of cystic fibrosis (CF). Bronchial artery embolisation (BAE) involves an angiogram to find abnormal arteries that may be responsible for the bleeding and block them off. It is one treatment used to manage haemoptysis, in particular when the bleeding has been severe.

What did you do?

We looked back over 7-years of BAE procedures performed for management of haemoptysis at our cystic fibrosis centre to discover the rate of neurovascular complications such as strokes, that were associated with this procedure.

What did you find?



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We found that whilst BAE is an effective treatment for large volume haemoptysis in patients with cystic fibrosis, it can be associated with complications include strokes. In a small number of patients this caused persistent long term residual symptoms.

What does this mean and reasons for caution?

These findings indicate that careful consideration should be given in the use of bronchial artery embolisation, especially to otherwise well patients with episodes of small volume haemoptysis. The findings also indicate that cystic fibrosis and radiology teams should have a low threshold to perform imaging scans in patients who develop possible neurological symptoms after a BAE procedure.

What's next?

The findings of this study will help CF and radiology teams to explain the risks and benefits of BAE to patients who may need this procedure.

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