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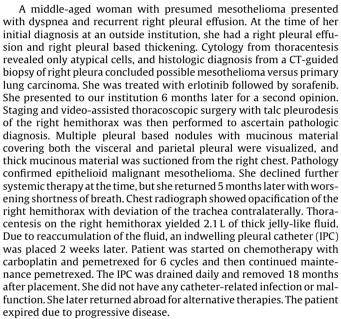
Clinical Image

Gelatinous Pleural Fluid With Mesothelioma

Líquido pleural gelatinoso en el mesotelioma

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Gelatinous pleural effusion may present a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. Hyaluronic acid produced by malignant mesothelioma is thought to contribute to its viscous appearance, and elevated levels in the pleural fluid supports the diagnosis of mesothelioma compared to other cancers. The thixotropic pleural fluid exhibits a change in viscosity depending on the degree and duration of force applied, and in the case of pleural effusion, it allows for drainage of the fluid with prompt return to a jelly-like consistency when stagnant. Other potential etiologies of viscous pleural effusion may include other cancers and infection (tuberculosis, paragonimiasis).² Malignancy-related gelatinous pleural fluid have also been associated with melanoma, lung cancer, myxoid sarcoma of the pleura, multiple myeloma, and abdominal or gynecologic (including pseudomyxoma peritonei) tumors.³ IPCs have become the mainstay for the care and palliation of malignant pleural effusions (MPE), and since MPE reoccurred despite talc pleurodesis, IPC provided symptom palliation and helped avoid additional procedures (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Supplementary video file. Pleural effusion is thick and yellow as it is poured into the specimen cup. The fluid has thixotropic properties where it stable at rest but appears to become more fluid when agitated. Limited pleural fluid analysis revealed an elevated total protein of 3.1, cell count of 950 WBCS with 1 neutrophil, 98 mononculear and 1 other. Cultures were negative. Cytology reveals rare atypical cells in a background of abundant mucoid material.

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