

Pleural Pustule—a Novel Thoracoscopic Appearance of Pleural Tuberculosis

Venkata Nagarjuna Maturu, MD, DM, Virender Pratibh Prasad, MD,*
Mahendra Biradar, MD,* and Narendra Kumar Narahari, MD†*

CONCLUSIONS

Pleural pustule is a novel visual thoracoscopic appearance with a high specificity and a positive predictive value (100%) for diagnosing tubercular pleuritis. In high tuberculosis-endemic countries, the presence of a pleural pustule on thoracoscopy can be considered diagnostic for tubercular pleural effusion. There is a strong positive association between the presence of pleural pustule and a positive Xpert MTB/Rif assay. When identified, a biopsy should be performed from pleural pustule as it will likely lead to a confirmed microbiologic diagnosis.

