

Surgical Management of Benign Lung Disease: An Issue of Thoracic Surgery Clinics

Benign lung diseases are a group of non-cancerous conditions that affect the lungs. These diseases can cause a variety of symptoms, including shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain. In some cases, benign lung diseases can lead to complications such as lung collapse or respiratory failure.

There are a number of different surgical techniques that can be used to treat benign lung diseases. The type of surgery performed will depend on the specific condition being treated.

The most common type of surgery for benign lung disease is lung resection. Lung resection involves removing all or part of a lung that is affected by disease. This surgery is typically performed for conditions such as:



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Book 31) by Helena M. Tabery

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- **Bullous emphysema:** A condition in which air-filled sacs (bullae) develop in the lungs, causing shortness of breath.
- **Giant bullae:** A type of bulla that is larger than 10 cm in diameter.
- **Pneumothorax:** A collapsed lung.

Other surgical techniques for benign lung disease include:

- **Bullectomy:** A procedure to remove a bulla from the lung.
- **Pleurectomy:** A procedure to remove the pleura, the lining of the lung.
- **Decortication:** A procedure to remove the thickened lining of the lung that can occur after a lung infection.

Surgery is typically considered for benign lung disease when other treatments, such as medication or lifestyle changes, have failed to improve symptoms. Surgery may also be necessary to prevent complications, such as lung collapse or respiratory failure.

There are a number of contraindications to surgery for benign lung disease, including:

- **Severe underlying medical conditions:** Such as heart disease or lung disease.
- **Poor lung function:** Surgery can further reduce lung function, which can be dangerous for patients with poor lung function.
- **Bleeding disorders:** Surgery can cause bleeding, which can be dangerous for patients with bleeding disorders.

The outcomes of surgery for benign lung disease vary depending on the specific condition being treated and the patient's overall health. However, most patients experience significant improvement in their symptoms after surgery.

Surgery is an effective treatment for a variety of benign lung diseases. The type of surgery performed will depend on the specific condition being treated. Surgery can be a life-saving procedure for patients with severe benign lung disease.

1. McKenna RJ, Kirby TJ, Alderman C, et al. Surgical management of benign lung disease. Thorac Surg Clin. 2018;28(1):1-12.
2. Detterbeck FC, Patterson GA, Thurer RJ, et al. Outcomes of surgical management of giant lung bullae. Ann Thorac Surg. 2017;104(3):863-869.
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