Official Title of the study:

Fibrinolysis Compared to Thoracoscopy for Pleural Infection

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Statistical Analysis

We believe that a difference of 2 days in the length of the postintervention hospital stay between the two treatment arms would be clinically important. This rationale is based on a previous randomized study that compared VATS and streptokinase therapy in empyema (1). In that study, the number of chest tube days after VATS was 5.8±1.1 days, as compared with 9.8±1.3 days in the streptokinase group. Furthermore, a case series from MT trials reported an average postoperative stay of 7–8 days (2-5), as compared with an average of 10–13 days in IPFT trials (6,7). According to a two-sided type I error of 0.05 and 80% power, the sample size was 16 patients in each group.

All analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism (version 7.0; GraphPad Software). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the patients' characteristics. The t test was used to examine differences between groups with parametric data and the Mann-Whitney U test was used for nonparametric data. Fisher's exact test was used for categorical variables. A P value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

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