

Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Medicine in the branch of Anaesthesiology.

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Declaration

I, Hannah Elizabeth Stuart-Clark declare that this research report is my own unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Master of Medicine in the branch of Anaesthesiology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other University.



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Abstract

Background

Tuberculosis (TB) has a high burden of disease in South Africa and a Rasmussen's aneurysm is a late complication of TB (1-5). Although rare, the risk for life-threatening complications is high (>50%) (6-9). Pulmonary artery embolization (PAE) is a highly specialised, minimally invasive technique used for the management of haemoptysis caused by a Rasmussen's aneurysm which is not commonly performed in Lower Middle-Income Countries (10). There is a paucity of information regarding anaesthetic management guidelines for these patients undergoing PAE.

The aim of this study was to describe the periprocedural anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms treated with PAE in the interventional radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

Methods

This study was designed as a retrospective case series and arterial embolization (AE) records were collected over a 4.5-year period (January 2017 – June 2021) for evaluation. All patients identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms were included in the study and the anaesthesia charts, patient hospital ward files, records from interventional radiology, the National Health Laboratory Service, and pulmonology patient records were then interrogated.

Results

The prevalence of Rasmussen's aneurysms in patients presenting for PAE with haemoptysis at this institution was 9%. Of the sixteen patients included in the study, thirteen were male and three were female. Current or previous tuberculosis infection was noted in ten patients and five patients had a current or previous history of smoking. The median duration of the general anaesthesia procedures were 4 hours 5 minutes (interquartile range 03:03 - 05:33), with nine cases done electively and eight done as emergencies. A total of 15 patients were intubated using double lumen

endotracheal tubes and 12 patients were done with both consultant and registrar anaesthesiology coverage. Median haemoglobin was 10.5g/dl and eleven patients did not receive periprocedural blood transfusions. All patients were embolised successfully using metallic coils and were sent to a high-dependency unit post-procedure.

Conclusion

Despite the limitations, this study provides several novel insights into the prevalence and anaesthetic management of Rasmussen's aneurysms in patients presenting with haemoptysis for PAE in our setting and helped establish the need for protocolised guidelines for the management of these patients. This data also allowed for the development of a novel set of guide recommendations for the management of this unique subset of patients, which include the following: guidelines for pre-operative optimisation, invasive monitoring, anaesthesia technique and postoperative care.

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I would like to dedicate this Master's thesis to the memory of my grandfather, Dr Stuart Astley Young. He introduced me to and encouraged my love of science, problem solving and physiology. He encouraged me to persevere when I was struggling with my research, and I know he would have been keen to read and comment on the final document if he was still here.

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Abbreviations

TB	Tuberculosis
AE	Arterial Embolization
BAE	Bronchial Artery Embolization
PAE	Pulmonary Artery Embolization
RA	Rasmussen's Aneurysm
NORA	Non-operating Room Anaesthesia
CHBAH	Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
IR Suite	Interventional Radiology Suite
ETT	Endotracheal Tube
DLT	Double Lumen Endotracheal Tube
SLT	Single Lumen Endotracheal Tube
OLV	One Lung Ventilation
CT Scan	Computerised Tomography Scan
CTPA	Computerised Tomography Pulmonary Angiogram
CTA	Computerised Tomography Angiogram
NICD	National Institute for Communicable Diseases
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CIN	Contrast-induced Nephropathy
ASA	American Society of Anaesthesiologists
ICU	Intensive Care Unit

NBCA	N-Butyl cyanoacrylate
PVA	Polyvinyl Alcohol
ABG	Arterial Blood Gas
INR	International Normalised Ratio
aPTT	Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time
IQR	Interquartile Range
O ₂ Sats	Oxygen Saturation
Hb	Haemoglobin
SBP	Systolic Blood Pressure
DBP	Diastolic Blood Pressure
MAP	Mean Arterial Blood Pressure
CVC	Central Venous Catheter
A-line	Arterial Line
HR	Heart Rate

Statement

This Research Report consists of a literature review, draft article, study proposal and appendices. The study proposal is included for background reference and is not for examination.

The formatting of this Research Report complies with the University of the Witwatersrand's Style Guide for Theses, Dissertations and Research Reports. The formatting of the draft article may differ from the rest of the Research Report to comply with the author guidelines of the Journal of Anaesthesia, the journal to which it is intended to be submitted.

Chapter 1 Review of the literature

1.1 Introduction

South Africa has a high Tuberculosis (TB) disease burden (1). One of the rarer complications of TB is Rasmussen's aneurysm (1). Anecdotal evidence suggests that clinicians at the Interventional Radiology Suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital see several Rasmussen's aneurysms every year. Despite this, there is a paucity of information regarding the anaesthetic approach to the management of patients presenting with this condition in the Interventional Radiology Suite. Thus, examination of the current literature can offer us some insights into this condition, its management as well as the anaesthetic approach for these patients.

1.2 Summary of the literature

1.2.1 Tuberculosis

The World Health Organization classifies Tuberculosis (TB) as one of the top ten causes of mortality worldwide, with approximately 10 million cases identified in 2019 (2, 3) with Africa accounting for 25% of annual TB cases globally. The incidence in South Africa is approximately 615 per 100 000 (2, 4) and while the incidence of TB in South Africa, and globally has been decreasing, it still produces a significant public health burden, especially in developing countries (3). The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019 has led to concern that the gains made in reducing TB disease may regress due to the reallocation of critical resources in emerging nations (2, 5).

The clinical manifestations of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection vary, with pulmonary disease affecting the lung parenchyma, pleura, airways and vascular structures (6). The differences in presentation are due to the variability in the host's immune system's response to the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection (7). The initial immune response to infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is to form a granuloma, a highly organised structure which consists of multiple different immune cells such as macrophages, neutrophils, etc. which surround a central caseous

necrotic core (7). Caseous necrosis causes destruction of local alveolar cells, local blood vessels and terminal bronchioles (7). According to Ravimohan *et al*, the exact mechanisms behind the immune response inducing caseous necrosis is poorly understood with several differences noted between animal and human models (7).

As such, patients with pulmonary TB have a high risk for developing long term respiratory complications due to the immune-mediated destruction of their alveoli, terminal bronchioles and pulmonary blood vessels which can result in a significant reduction in their quality of life (7). This damage can be extensive which further impacts on the patient's quality of life (8). Pulmonary pathology can present as fibro-cavitary disease with chronic cough, dyspnoea and/or haemoptysis (1, 7, 9). Fibro-cavitary disease and bronchiectasis result in irreversible airway damage and dilatation (1). Blood vessels adjacent to these areas of damage become hypertrophied, ectatic and are more prone to rupture and bleeding (1). As many as 8% of patients may present with haemoptysis which can range from mild to life-threatening, with mortality ranging from 5-25% (6, 10).

Tuberculosis is the leading cause of haemoptysis in developing countries, (11-14), and can occur in patients with active infection or in patients who are post-TB therapy (1). There is limited data assessing the differences in prevalence of haemoptysis in patients with active TB to that of haemoptysis in patients with post-pulmonary TB complications (1). Inflammation and hypoxia induces the propagation of pulmonary blood vessels in response to increases in vascular endothelial growth factor and angiopoietin-1 (14). New blood vessels tend to be thin-walled and prone to rupture (14), with these proangiogenic factors affecting both the bronchial and pulmonary arterial supplies (6, 14-16). In addition, many patients who are post-TB therapy experience distortions in their lung parenchyma and altered vasculature which is prone to rupture resulting in haemoptysis (1).

Minor haemoptysis in active TB is usually self-limiting and often responds to conventional TB therapy (17). Massive haemoptysis in TB occurs due to chronic parenchymal disease, and while it is an uncommon complication it is also life-threatening (14, 17, 18). Massive haemoptysis has a high mortality rate, with more than 75% of patients demising if conservatively managed (13, 14, 18, 19).

1.2.2 The pulmonary blood supply

Human lungs have a dual blood supply, with lower pressure deoxygenated blood passing through the pulmonary arteries and higher pressure oxygenated blood supplied by the bronchial arteries (14). The pulmonary arteries play a role in gaseous exchange, taking deoxygenated, carbon dioxide rich blood from the right ventricle to the lungs (20). The pulmonary arteries interact with the terminal bronchioles and alveoli to facilitate gaseous exchange (20). The bronchial arteries arise from the aorta and follow the respiratory bronchi with their terminal branches overlapping with the pulmonary artery circulation (20, 21). The function of the bronchial arteries is to provide arterial blood to the tracheobronchial tree down to the terminal bronchioles (20). The bronchial arteries also contribute to the blood supply of the visceral pleura, hilar lymph nodes, vagus nerve, oesophagus and the pulmonary arteries and veins (20).

The bronchial arteries branch off from the descending thoracic aorta at the level of the third to the eighth thoracic vertebral bodies, typically between the fifth and sixth thoracic vertebra (20, 21). There are several anatomic variations to the bronchial arteries and at least ten different patterns have been identified (10, 20, 21) . The predominant type arises from a single intercostal trunk at the level of the fifth and sixth thoracic vertebra (20, 21). This single intercostal trunk is typically found on the right side of the aorta and gives rise to the right bronchial arteries and a single left bronchial artery (20, 21). The prevalence of a common bronchial artery trunk is unknown (10). Bronchial arteries that originate outside of the fifth and sixth thoracic vertebra are considered anomalous (10). Approximately 20% of bronchial arteries can have an anomalous origin, arising from other systemic arteries such as the internal mammary artery, aortic arch, subclavian artery, costocervical trunk, etc. (10, 20). The majority of anomalous bronchial arteries arise from the aortic arch (10). Bronchial arteries can anastomose with the terminal branches of the pulmonary veins, allowing for drainage of bronchial artery blood into the left heart (20). In the presence of chronic inflammation, these connections may increase resulting in an increased bleeding risk (20). Normal bronchial arteries have a vascular diameter of 1.5 mm and a diameter greater than 3 mm is considered abnormal (21).

1.2.3 Types of aneurysms

A true aneurysm involves all three layers of the blood vessel wall (intima, media and adventitia) and the risk of rupture is proportional to the size of the aneurysm (22). True aneurysms can be saccular or fusiform and their walls may be attenuated (22). A false aneurysm or pseudoaneurysm is caused by arterial wall damage resulting in a locally contained haematoma, turbulent blood flow and an aneurysmal neck (23). Pseudoaneurysms differ from true aneurysms in that they do not contain any layer of the vessel wall (23). They are abnormal outpouchings or dilatations of arteries which are surrounded by the tunica adventitia (24). Pseudoaneurysms typically occur when there is a breach in the vessel wall due to trauma or infection and the blood is contained by the adventitia or surrounding soft tissue and the products of the coagulation cascade (23, 24).

1.2.4 Rasmussen's aneurysms

Rasmussen's aneurysms were first identified by Fritz Valdemar Rasmussen in 1868 in a series of autopsies conducted on patients with TB mediated haemoptysis (1, 3, 18, 25-29). Traditionally, a Rasmussen's aneurysm is a pseudoaneurysm of a peripheral branch of the pulmonary arteries adjacent to a TB cavity, and typically occurs in the upper lobes of the lung (18, 25, 26, 30-32). However, over time this definition has widened to include any aneurysm or pseudoaneurysm involving the pulmonary arteries in the presence of a disease which causes destruction of the pulmonary parenchyma, such as Behçet's disease (18, 25, 26, 30, 33).

Granulomatous infiltration of the arterial walls causes vascular remodelling following an increase in fibrin deposits and caseation which results in progressive thinning of the vessel wall and subsequent dilatation (1, 32, 34, 35). The weakened vessel wall can leak or rupture causing massive haemoptysis (1). Rasmussen's aneurysms are typically a late presentation of pulmonary damage after the initial TB exposure (36). They can also occur in the presence of disease reactivation with progressive pulmonary cavitation (36). Patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms may present with cough and haemoptysis (37).

Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, and most case reports describe only a single case, making prevalence difficult to quantify. One autopsy series reported a prevalence of 4 - 5% for Rasmussen's aneurysms while Ivkovic et al., reported a prevalence of 0.25% in 21 532 patients with confirmed TB when evaluated using multidetector computed tomography (1, 25, 26, 38, 39). The exact incidence of Rasmussen's aneurysms has not been reported (40). Although rare, the risk for life-threatening complications such as massive haemoptysis or pulmonary artery dissection is high therefore early identification and management is essential (28, 41). A Rasmussen's aneurysm should be suspected if patients with haemoptysis have a relapse post successful bronchial artery embolization or if massive haemoptysis occurs in the presence of TB with cavitary disease (42).

The gold standard for investigation is a computed tomography pulmonary angiogram (CTPA) as it provides anatomical information about the Rasmussen's aneurysm, identifies potential causes and guides management (18, 31). However, Rasmussen's aneurysms are not routinely evaluated for and can be missed on CTPA (28). Hypoperfusion of the lung parenchyma distal to the aneurysm can also affect the visualisation of the aneurysm on CTPA (43, 44). Possible causes for failure of CTPA to detect the presence of a Rasmussen's aneurysm include the following (42): the peripheral position of the aneurysm may mean that an inadequate amount of contrast reaches the lesion and thus it does not appear on the CTPA; there may be a vascular tissue flap in the aneurysm which acts as a valve which prevents adequate filling of the aneurysm with contrast; the presence of a thrombus in the aneurysm may impair filling of the aneurysm with contrast; and the presence of a bronchopulmonary shunt can cause hypoperfusion or reverse the direction of blood flow in the diseased pulmonary segment.

1.2.5 Haemoptysis

Massive haemoptysis is challenging to manage and requires aggressive measures to elicit cause and initiate prompt therapy (13). Almost 90% of all cases of haemoptysis arise from bronchial artery bleeds and the remaining 10% of cases are due to pulmonary artery bleeds, 5% of which are due to Rasmussen's aneurysms (14, 19, 25, 45). Mortality in massive haemoptysis occurs due to aspiration of blood resulting in asphyxiation, severe hypoxaemia, and hypotension (11, 13, 46, 47).

Massive haemoptysis was traditionally defined based on the volume of expectorated blood (more than 600 mL of blood over 24 hours, or more than 250 mL in a single episode) (48-50). However, quantifying blood loss can be challenging (14, 51). Clinical features that are suggestive of poor outcomes in patients with massive haemoptysis include the speed of bleeding, evidence of aspiration in the contralateral lung and haemodynamic instability (20). Therefore, it is important to look at the speed of bleeding, the patient's ability to maintain their airway and expectorate blood, the availability of different therapeutic options, the presence of haemodynamic or respiratory compromise and the patient's physiological reserve to determine if the bleed is life-threatening (14, 48-52).

1.2.6 Conservative management of haemoptysis

Chronic mild or moderate haemoptysis can be managed conservatively if the underlying pathology is known (53, 54). Mild haemoptysis is often self-limiting and can be controlled by medical therapy (54). Conservative management includes the treatment of the underlying infection (e.g., anti-tuberculosis therapy), strict bed rest, supplemental oxygen and positioning the patient in the lateral decubitus position with the bleeding site positioned inferiorly if it is known (1, 53-55). Conservative management also includes the optimization of the patient's coagulation status and haemodynamic status (53). The use of intravenous tranexamic acid has been shown to control mild haemoptysis in the setting of cystic fibrosis (53). However, the use of conservative management in massive or life-threatening haemoptysis is associated with increased mortality and is thus not recommended (54). There is also a higher risk of recurrent bleeds with conservative management and therefore it should be used as a complementary method to a more definitive treatment modality (20).

1.2.7 Bronchoscopic management of haemoptysis

Several techniques can be used to achieve haemostasis using a rigid or fiberoptic bronchoscope. These include the instillation of medical therapy into the bronchus via the bronchoscope and the use of thermal ablation techniques (20, 53).

Endobronchial medical therapy is used to achieve haemostasis when the source of bleeding is beyond the reach of the bronchoscope (20). Agents used include cold

saline irrigation, instillation of adrenaline and noradrenaline into the bronchus, administration of antidiuretic hormone derivatives such as terlipressin into the bronchus, and administration of tranexamic acid into the bronchus (20, 53).

The use of thermal ablation requires special training and equipment and should only be used by an experienced provider (20). Thermal ablation is predominantly used for the control of haemoptysis due to malignancies (20). Photocoagulation by laser therapy can be used if the bleeding site is localised to the airway mucosa (20). Electrocauterization with argon is an alternative thermal ablation method. It can be used to induce clot formation and can be effective in managing bleeds arising from the airway mucosa (20). There is a high risk of airway fires with these techniques and precautions should be taken to avoid this (20).

1.2.8 Surgical management of haemoptysis

The use of surgery in the management of haemoptysis has decreased over time with the advent of minimally invasive techniques such as arterial embolization (AE) (20). Patients with massive haemoptysis tend to be poor surgical candidates with reduced respiratory reserve and have an increased risk for post-operative complications such as persistent air leaks, bronchopulmonary fistulae, and coagulopathy (54, 56). This is further complicated by the lack of clear guidelines for perioperative anaesthetic management of these patients (54). A lateral thoracotomy allows for the surgical management of the bleeding vessels followed by either a wedge or segmental resection, a lobectomy or pneumonectomy of the affected lung (20, 54, 57).

The advantage of surgical management is that it provides definitive treatment of massive haemoptysis by removing the source of bleeding (54). However, surgery in these high-risk patients is associated with mortality rates of 7.1-18.2% which increases to 40-50% if the surgery is done in an emergent setting (6, 15, 48, 58, 59). Mortality often arises due to ongoing bleeding with associated haemodynamic instability and contamination of healthy lung segments (43). In addition, when the bleed is life threatening lung function tests may not have been performed to assess the patient's baseline pulmonary reserve function. This means that if the patient needs an emergent pneumonectomy, it may be difficult to predict how the patient

will tolerate the procedure (43). This is of particular importance as patients often have poor respiratory reserve due to their underlying pathology (56).

Appropriate patient selection and timing of surgery improves outcomes and emergent surgery should only be considered in patients who continue to have massive haemoptysis despite minimally invasive interventions (43). Adverse outcomes following surgical intervention tend to be associated with advanced age, pleural adhesions, pneumonectomy and bronchiectasis (20).

1.2.9 Arterial embolization for haemoptysis

The use of arterial embolization (AE) in haemoptysis was first described in 1974 and has become the standard of care for at-risk patients with TB-induced haemoptysis (43, 60). Arterial embolization is a minimally invasive technique which improves mortality in massive haemoptysis to 13-17.8% and has a success rate of approximately 90% (1, 14, 61-63). The use of minimally invasive techniques can preserve pulmonary function and improve prognosis (64, 65), may be used in patients with multiple aneurysms and can function as a bridging therapy to definitive surgical management (1, 64, 66). As such, AE is considered one of the most effective non-surgical treatments for massive haemoptysis (54). Arterial embolization can be applied to either the bronchial or pulmonary arterial systems. Haemoptysis in TB usually arises from the bronchial arteries, and less than 10% of cases are due to pulmonary arterial bleeds (21, 43, 67). Rasmussen's aneurysms are pulmonary arterial pseudoaneurysms. Literature focusing on AE in these patients is often referred to as bronchial artery embolization (BAE). This is a misnomer as the embolization technique to manage Rasmussen's aneurysms is conducted via the pulmonary arterial system, as such it should be referred to as pulmonary artery embolization (PAE).

Traditionally, the interventional radiologist will gain access via the femoral artery and then start with an evaluation of the bronchial arterial system to try to locate the source of bleeding (21). Angiography is performed with iso-osmolar or low-osmolar non-ionic contrast (21). If the source of bleeding cannot be identified, a systematic and sequential review of the pulmonary and systemic circulation will be conducted to try locate the source (68). Anatomic information obtained from CTPA should be

used to guide angiography and the endovascular interventions (37). This is recommended to reduce the risk of rebleeding and improve control of haemoptysis (68). In a resource limited setting such as South Africa, with a high burden of disease of TB, diagnostic tools and specialist management options such as AE may not be readily available which may contribute to the high mortality of massive haemoptysis in these settings (1).

Pulmonary artery aneurysms can be classified into four types based on the CTPA and bronchial angiographic findings (42, 43): Type A (visualised on nonselective catheter directed pulmonary angiography); Type B (visualised on selective catheter directed pulmonary angiography only); Type C (both the bronchial and non-bronchial vascular systems are visualised due to the presence of a bronchial to pulmonary arterial shunt and no feeding pulmonary arteries are visualised during selective pulmonary angiography); and Type D (visualised only by CTPA).

Two embolization techniques have been described: BAE followed by selective PAE if a residual aneurysm is noted on follow up CTPA or haemoptysis reoccurs, or selective PAE followed by BAE if a residual aneurysm is noted on bronchial angiography (43). Bronchial artery embolization is the method of choice for control of haemoptysis, and interventional radiologists may prefer to approach Rasmussen's aneurysms via this technique, especially if it is a Type C Rasmussen's aneurysm (43). However, the bronchial artery can be tortuous with multiple interconnecting branches which can make approaching a Rasmussen's aneurysm via this technique more challenging (43). Using the pulmonary artery to approach a Rasmussen's aneurysm can be simpler due to the short and straight nature of the pulmonary arteries (43). There is a lack of clear treatment guidelines in the literature for the management of Rasmussen's aneurysms (36).

Arterial embolization techniques include the insertion of a gelatin sponge, coils, N-butyl cyanoacrylate (NBCA) glue injection, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) particle injections, microsphere injection and stent insertion (43, 64). The choice of agent deployed for embolization depends on durability of occlusion, ease of dispatch of the technique, proximal or distal embolization, the potential for recanalization post-embolization and the size of the aneurysm and the feeding vessel lumen (21, 66). The choice of embolization technique is dependent on institutional protocols and

using the correct technique for the aneurysm ensures the safety and success of the intervention (20, 21).

The use of gelatin sponge such as Gelfoam¹ is considered to be the most economical (21). However, the use of a microcatheter may make delivery of the gelatin sponge for embolization more technically challenging and there is a high rate of recanalization (21). As such, this technique is not routinely used for the management of Rasmussen's aneurysms.

Polyvinyl alcohol particles are also relatively inexpensive and do not undergo resorption once injected therefore they provide a more durable vascular occlusion (21). However, PVA particles can clump together which can lead to a more proximal occlusion than anticipated, therefore their use is not recommended in the management of Rasmussen's aneurysms (21).

Microspheres consist of cross-linked gelatin and are predominantly used in the embolization of uterine fibroids (21). They are less prone to clumping than PVA particles and have shown some short-term success in the management of bronchial artery aneurysms (21). Their role in the management of Rasmussen's aneurysms has not been documented in the literature.

The use of NBCA glue is a preferred technique of embolization as this liquid format facilitates the closure of both the aneurysm and its inflow and outflow arteries (43). However, its use in the BAE has been infrequently reported in the literature (21). Theoretically, there is less risk of aneurysmal rupture when using NBCA glue, but its success is operator-dependent and its behaviour can be unpredictable (43). However, there is a risk of distal embolization which can result in the embolization of nontarget arteries and subsequent tissue necrosis (21).

Metallic coils can be used to achieve a proximal occlusion of the affected vessel, however the placement of the metallic coil proximally may inhibit further embolization attempts if rebleeding occurs (21). Proximal occlusion of a Rasmussen's aneurysm does not address collateral flow which can present as recurrent haemoptysis (21). There is limited data on the efficacy of using metallic coils for BAE, however it is the recommended technique employed for the

embolization of pulmonary artery aneurysms (21, 36, 37, 67). There is an increased risk of aneurysmal rupture with the use of metallic coils, as such care must be taken to avoid overpacking the aneurysm or advancing either the catheter or coil through the aneurysmal wall (67).

Indiscriminate embolization can result in serious ischaemic complications involving the healthy lung parenchyma (43) and common complications include re-canalisation of embolized arteries, incomplete embolization, growth of collateral blood supply, inadvertent rupture of the aneurysm or arterial dissection, transient chest pain or back pain and dysphagia (14, 60, 64, 69). The most severe complication is spinal cord ischaemia secondary to embolization of the anterior spinal arteries (14).

1.2.10 Management guidelines for patients with massive haemoptysis

In massive haemoptysis, initial management of the patient follows advanced cardiac life support principles which include securing the airway, optimization of oxygenation, and stabilization of their haemodynamic status (6, 13, 20, 70). This often requires the involvement of a multidisciplinary team consisting of the anaesthesiologist, interventional radiologist, pulmonologist, critical care physician and surgeon (36, 70, 71). A systematic approach to management is preferred and is summarised in figure 1-2 (20).

Initial airway management can be accomplished with a single lumen endotracheal tube until the site of the bleeding has been identified, using either fiberoptic bronchoscopy, chest computed tomography angiography (CTA) or AE (13, 20). Once the site of the bleed has been identified, lung isolation can be achieved using several techniques which include the following: a tube exchange with a double-lumen endotracheal tube, the use of a Fogarty catheter or a bronchial blocker, or the advancement of the single-lumen endotracheal tube into the main bronchus of the unaffected side (13). The patient should then be positioned with the bleeding side in the dependent position to optimise oxygenation of the unaffected lung (70). It is important to appropriately blunt the sympathetic response to intubation in these patients as excessive sympathetic stimulation can precipitate an increase in

pulmonary vascular resistance and induce right ventricular failure, aneurysmal rupture and sudden death (59).

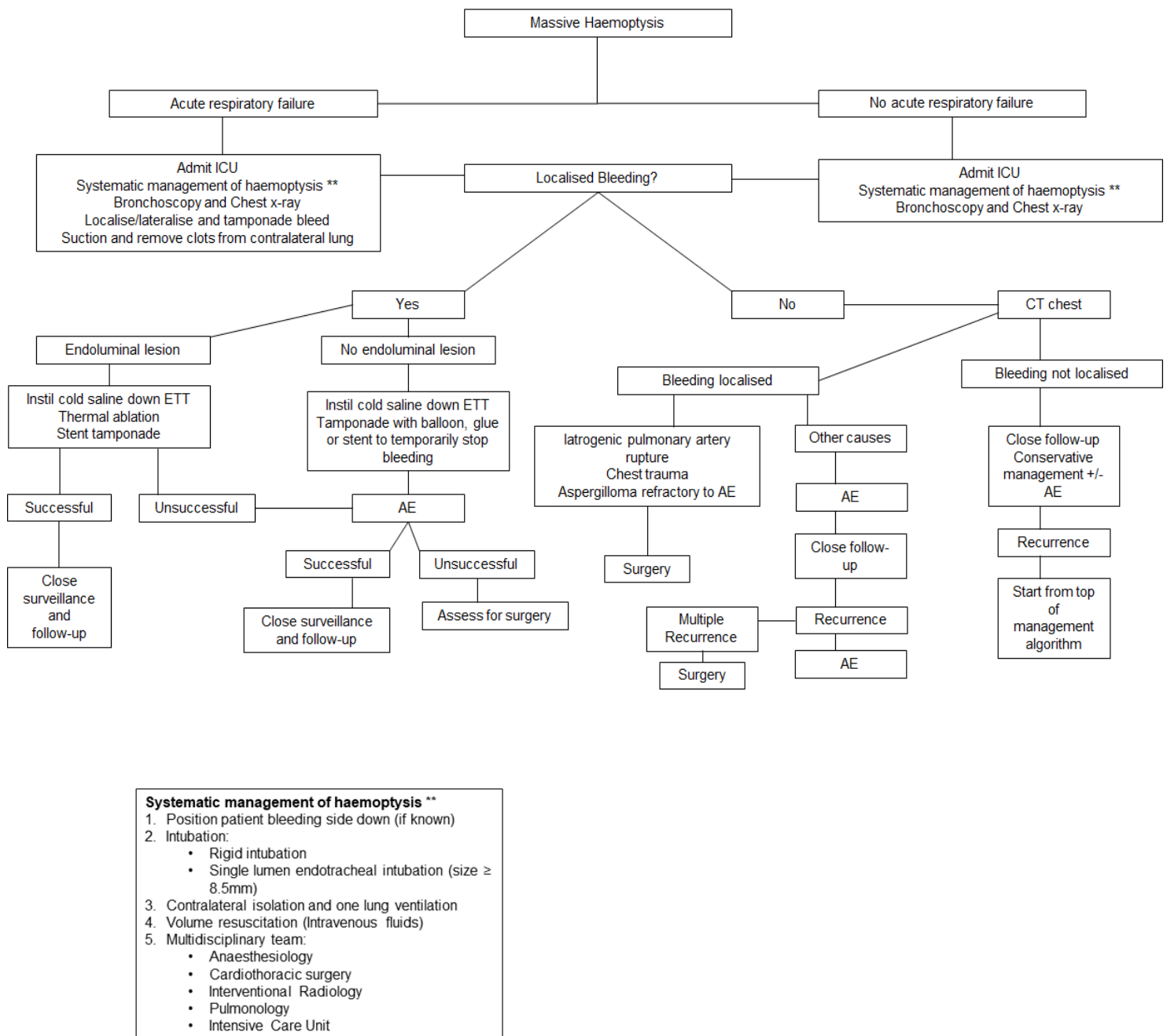


Figure 1-1 Flow chart describing the systematic approach to the management of massive haemoptysis, start from the top of the flow chart (20)

** see box with systematic management of haemoptysis (adapted from Radchenko et al (20)). Arterial embolization (AE), Endotracheal tube (ETT), Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Computerised Tomography Scan (CT scan).

Arterial embolization provides immediate control of a bleed in 75-90% of patients (13) and the type of anaesthetic technique and fluid management choice is dependent on the patient's condition (71-73). Anaesthetic techniques for AE include sedation with monitored anaesthesia care, regional or neuraxial techniques and general anaesthesia (73). As mentioned above, massive haemoptysis often necessitates the use of lung isolation techniques (72) and patients may also require massive transfusion, inotropic support, and invasive monitoring (70, 72). In patients with mild haemoptysis or those who are stable, the management options are more unclear and there is a general paucity of literature regarding the anaesthetic approach for these patients (72). As such, patients with haemoptysis presenting in interventional radiology are a unique anaesthetic challenge (72).

1.2.11 Anaesthesia for AE

Arterial embolization typically takes place in the interventional radiology suite. This falls under the domain of non-operating room anaesthesia (NORA) (74). Additionally, the rapid expansion of interventional radiology over the last decade has produced a growing demand for anaesthesia support (73-76). However, NORA in the interventional radiology suite can present multiple challenges to the anaesthesiologist (75). These include an unfamiliar location and equipment, lack of drugs or supplies, limited workspace and patient access, uncomfortable positioning of the patient, reduced environmental temperatures, and unfamiliar procedures and personnel (73-75). These challenges can hinder the provision of safe anaesthetic care and protocolised care may help to improve safety and patient experience (74, 75). The anaesthetic technique used depends on the anaesthesiologist's knowledge of the procedure (duration and possible complications), intraoperative and post-operative requirements (72). Patients who are managed in interventional radiology tend to be sicker, older, and more complex than those presenting for traditional surgery (72, 74, 77).

The choice of anaesthetic technique depends on procedure and patient specific considerations (73). Patient specific considerations include haemodynamic instability, altered levels of consciousness with risk of aspiration, inability to lie supine or cooperate due to pain, anxiety or respiratory compromise, a history of difficult airways, presence of obstructive sleep apnoea and patient preference (72,

73). Procedure specific considerations include the type of procedure, duration and complexity of the procedure, the need for unconventional positioning, the need for immobility or intermittent apnoea, and exposure of the patient and anaesthesia team to radiation (73). Appropriate anaesthetic techniques include sedation with monitored anaesthesia care, regional or neuraxial techniques and general anaesthesia (73). Derbent et al. postulate that the use of a permanent anaesthesia interventional radiology team may reduce the complications associated with NORA in the interventional radiology suite (71).

1.2.12 Pre-procedural evaluation

Patient preparation and optimization is essential when determining the anaesthetic approach for the management of a patient with haemoptysis requiring AE. A multidisciplinary approach should be followed as all members of the patients' team should be involved in their optimization (36). Pre-anaesthesia evaluation should include a thorough history and examination to identify potential risk factors and areas for further optimization (78). Special attention should be taken to look for risk factors for contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN) and contrast allergy (78). A patient should be adequately resuscitated where possible especially in the setting of massive haemoptysis (79). This includes optimising oxygenation and correction of hypotension, coagulopathy, anaemia, and electrolyte abnormalities (79).

Investigations should be used to provide a baseline to either direct treatment or assess response to treatment (78). Pre-procedural investigations should be directed by institution-specific protocols and may include the following (20, 78, 79): Chest x-ray, CTPA and CTA, electrocardiogram, pulse oximetry and a room air arterial blood gas, phlebotomy (Full blood count with differential count, coagulation profile, electrolytes, urea and creatinine, and liver function tests), urinalysis, and a type and crossmatch of blood.

Arterial embolization is a minimally invasive technique, as such detection and control of bleeding may be difficult due to lack of visualisation and ability to immediately control the bleeding (78). Data on coagulation test values is equivocal in terms of predicting the potential for bleeding during the procedure but should be considered if the patient has the following risk factors (78): Pre-existing

comorbidities (renal failure, liver disease, thrombocytopaenia, etc.); the use of large interventional devices where there is a possibility of inadvertent entry into a vascular structure; bleeding may only be detected after significant blood loss; and bleeding may be difficult to control.

Interventional radiology procedures can be classified according to bleeding risk, organ system, access site and size of the interventional device required for the procedure (low, moderate, and high) (78, 80). Arterial embolization is considered a moderate risk intervention (78, 80). It is recommended that the patients with moderate bleeding risk have an International Normalised Ratio value (INR) ≤ 1.5 , an Activated Partial Thromboplastin Clotting Time ≤ 1.5 x control and a platelet count $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$ (78, 80).

Arterial embolization requires the injection of contrast medium and renal function tests may be used to estimate the patient's risk for CIN (21, 78). Serum creatinine and estimated glomerular filtration rate are used to assess renal function (78).

Vigilant preparation of the interventional radiology suite (IR suite) is also essential and should be guided by the American Society of Anaesthesiologists recommendations (73). This includes checking monitors, equipment and drugs (73). It is also important to consider the ergonomics of the IR suite. Positioning of the anaesthesia workstation for direct observation by the anaesthesiologist will need to be determined due to the limited space in the IR suite (73). Intravenous line extensions and airway circuit extensions may be necessary due to limited access to the patient (73, 81).

1.2.13 Intraoperative anaesthesia

Arterial embolization can take between 2 to 4 hours to perform (82). General anaesthesia is the preferred technique for AE management of Rasmussen's aneurysms. General anaesthesia provides patient immobility and controlled ventilation and apnoea which permits optimal image acquisition and delivery of treatment (81, 83, 84). Patient immobility is essential for the successful deployment of coil embolization in the event of accidental rupture of the aneurysm (83). Total intravenous anaesthesia or volatile anaesthesia may be used, and the technique is

guided by the anaesthesiologist's preference (81). Management of the airway is discussed above.

Access to the patient during the procedure may be limited due to the ergonomics of the IR suite and the patient's arms may also be tucked into their sides (73, 81). Thus, extension lines and three-way taps may need to be added to the infusion lines to provide better access (73, 81). It is important to consider that administered drugs may have a delayed onset of action due to the dead space in the infusion lines due to the addition of extension lines (81). Patients should have at least two peripheral intravenous catheters for the procedure (81).

Monitoring should follow the American Society of Anaesthesiologist guidelines (73). The type of monitoring used should be adapted to the baseline medical status of the patient (81). Routine monitoring such as pulse oximetry, non-invasive blood pressure and electrocardiogram may need to be supplemented with invasive haemodynamic monitoring such as arterial blood pressure and central venous pressure monitoring (81). Close monitoring of haemodynamics is essential as it assists in ensuring adequate sympathetic suppression thus avoiding an increase in pulmonary vascular resistance and the risk of aneurysmal rupture (59).

Core temperature should be monitored as patient hypothermia can occur due to the cold ambient temperature of the IR suite and the prolonged duration of the procedure (75, 76, 81). Urine output should also be measured and frequently assessed as large volumes of fluid may be used to flush the arterial catheters and the osmotic load of the contrast medium may cause excessive diuresis (81).

The Society of Interventional Radiology recommend that staff in the IR suite have up-to-date advanced cardiac life support certification (84-86). The anaesthesiologist plays a role in providing cardio-respiratory support in the event of adverse events such as aneurysmal rupture and bleeding. Appropriate ventilation strategies should be used to avoid increases in pulmonary vascular resistance (59).

1.2.14 Post-procedural management

On completion of the AE procedure, the interventional radiologist will remove the femoral artery catheter and compress the groin to assist with haemostasis (79).

Patients should be admitted to a high dependency or intensive care unit (ICU) post-procedure for close monitoring and routine post-arterial embolization care to reduce the risk of adverse outcomes such as bleeding (79, 82, 85). Post-arterial embolization care includes the following (79, 82): Bed rest where the patient must lie flat for the first hour and avoid bending the leg on the side of the femoral artery catheter insertion; regular vital sign readings as per the unit's protocol; regular inspection of the access site and peripheral pulse checks with each vitals check to monitor for bleeding and vessel occlusion; adequate analgesia and antiemetic therapy; and ensure adequate fluid intake and monitor urine output to prevent renal dysfunction.

If the patient's condition allows, the anaesthesiologist should aim to extubate the patient at the end of their AE. Respiratory complications occur more commonly on emergence and tracheal extubation than with induction and tracheal intubation (87). Previous difficulty in securing the airway and patients with an increased risk of aspiration need to be considered when planning for tracheal extubation (87). Tracheal extubation is associated with a 10-30% increase in heart rate and blood pressure (87). In Rasmussen's aneurysms, blunting the extubation response is important to avoid the adverse effects of excessive sympathetic stimulation (59). Excessive sympathetic stimulation can precipitate rupture of the aneurysm (59). Sympathetic stimulation can be attenuated by the administration of any of the following agents: esmolol, magnesium sulphate, intravenous or topical lignocaine, or propofol (87).

Patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms may have pre-existing poor respiratory function secondary to TB fibro-cavitary disease and may have an increased risk of bronchospasm at extubation (85, 87). Tracheal extubation should be timed with the end of inspiration as this has been shown to reduce the risk of laryngospasm (87, 88).

Patients with chronic lung disease also have an increased risk of post-operative hypoxaemia (85, 87). This can be caused by inadequate minute ventilation, diffusion hypoxia, mucociliary dysfunction, hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction, and post-hyperventilation hypoventilation (85, 87, 89). Administration of 100% oxygen can

help prevent atelectasis and assist in the management of post-operative hypoxaemia (87, 88).

If extubation is not possible after the AE, the patient should be transferred to the ICU intubated with 100% oxygen (87). The decision to extubate in ICU is protocol driven (87). Classical weaning criteria have been shown to have poor accuracy in detecting the outcome of extubation (87). However, a cuff leak test and/or a spontaneous breathing trial via a T-piece have been shown to have high sensitivity in predicting successful extubation (87).

1.3 Conclusion

Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, and as such there is a paucity of data with regards to the anaesthetic management of these patients inside the interventional radiology suite. As discussed, the growing popularity of minimally invasive techniques such as AE means that anaesthesia support in the interventional radiology suit is becoming more frequent. Despite this, there are no clear or definitive therapeutic guidelines for the management of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysm under these conditions (90, 91). Patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms at the interventional radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital provides a unique opportunity to study a cohort of these patients, which are usually represented in literature as individual case reports. The results of this study should provide the opportunity to explore this unique burden of disease to provide insight into the anaesthetic management techniques used for patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms as well as provide demographic information and outcomes of the interventions.

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Chapter 3 Draft article

Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital

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Key words: Rasmussen's aneurysms, Haemoptysis, Tuberculosis, Pulmonary Artery Embolization

3.1 Abstract

Background

Tuberculosis (TB) has a high burden of disease in South Africa and a Rasmussen's aneurysm is a late complication of TB (1-5). Although rare, the risk for life-threatening complications is high (>50%) (6-9). Pulmonary artery embolization (PAE) is a highly specialised, minimally invasive technique used for the management of haemoptysis caused by a Rasmussen's aneurysm which is not commonly performed in Lower Middle-Income Countries (10). There is a paucity of information regarding anaesthetic management guidelines for these patients undergoing PAE.

The aim of this study was to describe the periprocedural anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms treated with PAE in the interventional radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. The data collected will be used to establish practice guidelines for this unique subset of patients

Methods

This study was designed as a retrospective case series and arterial embolization (AE) records were collected over a 4.5-year period (January 2017 – June 2021) for evaluation. All patients identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms were included in the study and the anaesthesia charts, patient hospital ward files, records from interventional radiology, the National Health Laboratory Service, and pulmonology patient records were then interrogated.

Results

The prevalence of Rasmussen's aneurysms in patients presenting for PAE with haemoptysis at this institution was 9%. Of the sixteen patients included in the study, thirteen were male and three were female. Current or previous tuberculosis infection was noted in ten patients and five patients had a current or previous history of smoking. The median duration of the general anaesthesia procedures were 4 hours 5 minutes (interquartile range 03:03 - 05:33), with nine cases done electively and

eight done as emergencies. A total of 15 patients were intubated using double lumen endotracheal tubes and 12 patients were done with both consultant and registrar anaesthesiology coverage. Median haemoglobin was 10.5g/dl and eleven patients did not receive periprocedural blood transfusions. All patients were embolised successfully using metallic coils and were sent to a high-dependency unit post-procedure.

Conclusion

Despite the limitations, this study provides several novel insights into the prevalence and anaesthetic management of Rasmussen's aneurysms in patients presenting with haemoptysis for PAE in our setting and helped establish the need for protocolised guidelines for the management of these patients. This data also allowed for the development of a novel set of guide recommendations for the management of this unique subset of patients, which include the following: guidelines for pre-operative optimisation, invasive monitoring, anaesthesia technique and postoperative care.

3.2 Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) has a high burden of disease in South Africa, making this an ideal setting to evaluate clinical interventions for this disease. One of the rarer complications of TB is a Rasmussen's aneurysm (RA), a peripheral pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysm occurring adjacent to a TB cavity (1-5). Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, and most case reports describe a single case, making the quantification of their prevalence difficult. One autopsy series reported a prevalence of 4-5% while Ivkovic *et al* found an incidence of 0.25% in (1, 2, 6-8). Rasmussen's aneurysms occur late in the disease progression of TB (9). Although rare, the risk for life-threatening complications such as massive haemoptysis, pulmonary artery dissection and death is high (>50%) therefore early identification and management is essential (10-13).

The lungs have a dual blood supply, and only 10% of cases of haemoptysis are due to pulmonary artery pathology (1, 13-15). The use of arterial embolization (AE) for haemoptysis was first described in 1974 and has become the standard of care for patients with TB-induced haemoptysis (16, 17). It is a minimally invasive technique which improves mortality in massive haemoptysis to 13-17.8% and has a success rate of approximately 90% (7, 15, 18-20). Rasmussen's aneurysms are treated with pulmonary artery embolization (PAE) which takes place in the interventional radiology suite (IR Suite), and thus falls under the domain of non-operating room anaesthesia (NORA) (21, 22). The rapid expansion of interventional radiology in the last decade has produced a growing demand for anaesthesia support (21, 23-25). However, NORA in the IR suite can present the anaesthesiologist with several challenges which can hinder the provision of safe anaesthetic care and protocolized care may help to address these (21, 23).

Anecdotal evidence suggests that clinicians at the IR suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) see several RA every year. Despite this, there is a paucity of information regarding the anaesthetic management of these patients within this setting.

The aim of this study was to describe the peri-procedural anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients presenting with RA and treated with PAE in the IR suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH).

3.3 Methods

3.3.1 Study Design and Ethical Approval

This study used a retrospective case series design, and the protocol was approved by the University of Witwatersrand's Human Research and Ethics Committee (Medical) (M210717) and other relevant authorities.

3.3.2 Patient Cohort

Pulmonary artery embolization was introduced to CHBAH in January 2017 and all the AE records from the IR suite collected over a 4.5-year period, starting in January 2017 until the end of June 2021, were examined for relevance. All patients identified in the records with RA were then selected for inclusion in the study. Anaesthesia charts, patient hospital ward files, records from interventional radiology, the National Health Laboratory Service and pulmonology patient records were then interrogated. Data obtained from these medical records included the following: patient demographics, past medical history, laboratory investigations, peri-procedural anaesthesia management, interventional radiology management and peri-procedural outcomes.

3.3.3 Case Evaluation

Data was captured in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and analysed. Demographic data such as age, gender, race, and comorbidities are summarized in Table 3.1. Anaesthetic management and interventional radiology data are described in Table 3.2. Where possible categorical variables were expressed as percentages and numerical variables were expressed as median values with an interquartile range.

3.4 Results

Of the 211 patients presenting with haemoptysis within the IR suite at CHBAH for AE over the study period, 22 were identified with RA. Three patients were later

excluded as they were erroneously identified as RA with two of these excluded patients presenting with pseudoaneurysms of their pulmonary arteries post-penetrating chest trauma and the other diagnosed with a malignancy. The prevalence of RA in the patients presenting for AE with haemoptysis was 9%. Anaesthetic records were found for 16 of the remaining patients and one patient underwent two PAE under general anaesthesia. Anaesthetic records could not be found for three patients, and they were excluded. The sample size was 17 anaesthetic records (n=17). Patient selection is shown in Figure 3.1.

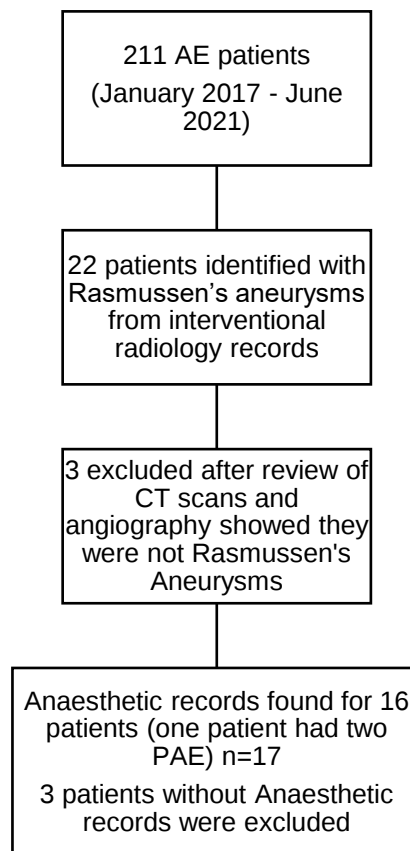


Figure 3-1: Schematic explaining the inclusion and exclusion criteria applied in this study. Arterial embolization (AE), Rasmussen's aneurysm (RA), Computerized Tomography scans (CT scans), Pulmonary artery embolization (PAE).

Of the 16 patients included in the study, thirteen were male and three were female. The median age for the cohort was 32 years and the age distribution is shown in Table 3.1. Race was only recorded for 12 of the 16 patients, with all 12 described as Black Africans.

Methods of diagnosis of RA are summarized in Table 3.1. None of the anaesthesia records noted if the patients were having active haemoptysis at the time of their PAE. Comorbidities in this cohort are listed in Table 3.1

Table 3.1: Demographic details of study participants

Age (years)	Count (Percentage) = n (%)	Median [IQR]
10-19	3 (19%)	
20-29	3 (19%)	
30-39	4 (25%)	
40-49	5 (31%)	
50-59	0 (0%)	
60-69	1 (6%)	
Median Age		32.5 [25.5 – 41.75]
Median Age Female		19 [18 – 25]
Median Age Male		34 [27 – 44]
Sex		
Female	3 (19%)	
Male	13 (81%)	
Diagnosis of Rasmussen's aneurysm		
Previous BAE	1 (6%)	
CTPA	11 (69%)	
CTPA and previous BAE	3 (19%)	
Unknown	1 (6%)	
Site of Rasmussen's aneurysm		
Left Lower	0 (0%)	

Left Upper	8 (50%)	
Right Lower	4 (25%)	
Right Upper	4 (25%)	
Tuberculosis		
Active	8 (50%)	
Previous	2 (13%)	
Sputum Negative but Positive Radiological Features	6 (38%)	
Other Respiratory Comorbidities		
Mycetoma	2 (25%)	
Necrotizing Pneumonia	1 (13%)	
Pulmonary Embolism	1 (13%)	
None	4 (50%)	
Other Comorbidities		
Arthritis	1 (5%)	
Diabetes Mellitus	2 (11%)	
Epidural Hematoma	1 (5%)	
Epilepsy	1 (5%)	
Gout	1 (5%)	
HIV	7 (37%)	
Hypertension	1 (5%)	
Meningitis	1 (5%)	
None	4 (21%)	
Smoking History		
Current	4 (25%)	
Previous	1 (6%)	
No Smoking History	11 (69%)	

(Bronchial artery embolization (BAE), Computerized Tomography Pulmonary Angiography of the Chest (CTPA), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Interquartile Range (IQR).

One of the 16 patients underwent two PAE interventions under general anaesthesia (n=17). The urgency of the procedure, timing of cases, skill level of anaesthesia providers and distribution of the American Society of Anaesthesiologists Physical Status Classifications are summarized in Table 3.2.

The median duration of the general anaesthesia procedures was 4 hours 5 minutes (IQR 03:03 - 05:33). Of the six patients whose hospital ward files were found, all were noted to have no ongoing haemoptysis prior to their PAE after having presented with haemoptysis at admission.

Airway management technique is summarized in Table 3.2. Pre-procedural and intra-procedural transfusions are summarized in Table 3.2. Preoperative blood results and initial vitals are represented as median values with interquartile ranges in Table 3.2. All but one patient had a pre-operative INR result. None of the patients had activated partial thromboplastin time results (aPTT).

Arterial lines, central venous catheters and peripheral intravenous access is summarised in Table 3.2. One patient did not have an arterial line inserted for the procedure and only three had arterial lines inserted pre-induction. The list of complications can be found in Table 3.2. Arterial blood gas (ABG) samples were taken for fourteen of the patients, ten of whom had serial blood gas samples taken over the course of the procedure. The postoperative outcomes and destinations for the patients are summarised in Table 3.2.

All the patients had their RA embolized with metallic coils. The median radiation exposure time was 3 hours 52 minutes (interquartile range 03:16 – 05:37) and the median volume of contrast was 235 mL (interquartile range 157.5 – 300 ml).

Table 3.2: Anaesthetic management and Interventional Radiology management

Surgery type	Count (Percentage) = n (%)	Median [IQR]
Elective	9 (53%)	
Emergency	8 (47%)	
ASA Physical Status Classification		
2	3 (18%)	
3	12 (71%)	
4	2 (12%)	
Anaesthesiology Coverage		
Registrar Only	3 (18%)	
Consultant and Registrar	12 (71%)	
Consultant Only	2 (12%)	
Time of Day of Procedure		
Weekday 08:00 – 16:00	15 (88%)	
Weekday 16:00 – 08:00	1 (6%)	
Weekend	1 (6%)	
Duration of Procedure (hour : minutes)		04:05 [03:05 – 05:30]
Airway Management		
DLT	15 (88%)	
SLT	2 (12%)	
Transfusion		
Pre-procedural	4 (22%)	
Intra-procedural	3 (17%)	

None	11 (61%)	
Invasive and Peripheral Lines		
Arterial Line	16 (89%)	
CVC	6 (33%)	
Large Bore Peripheral (>18g) x1	7 (39%)	
Large Bore Peripheral (>18g) x2	8 (44%)	
Combined CVC and Large Bore Peripheral	6 (33%)	
Starting Vitals		
HR (bpm)		109 [93 – 121]
SBP (mmHg)		132 [120 – 141]
DBP (mmHg)		83 [75 – 91]
MAP (mmHg)		100 [95 – 113]
O2 Sats (%)		96 [94 – 98]
Pre-operative Blood Results		
Chloride (mmol/L)		98.5 [95.3 – 101]
Creatinine (umol/L)		67.5 [50.8 – 76.5]
Haemoglobin (g/dL)		10.5 [9.7 – 11.9]
INR		1.22 [1.12 – 1.33]
Potassium (mmol/L)		4.2 [3.9 – 4.7]
Platelet Count (x 10 ⁹ /L)		393 [254 – 567]
Sodium (mmol/L)		138 [136 – 139]
Urea (mmol/L)		3.2 [2.8 – 5.5]
Arterial Blood Gas		
Yes	14 (82%)	
No	3 (18%)	
Serial	10 (59)	
ABG Haemoglobin		10.3 [8.9 – 11]

Complications		
Adrenaline	2 (12%)	
Aneurysm Rupture	1 (6%)	
Arrhythmia	2 (12%)	
Bronchial Lavage	3 (18%)	
Delayed Emergence	1 (6%)	
Difficult Ventilation	3 (18%)	
Endotracheal Tube blocked with clot	2 (12%)	
Nil	10 (59%)	
Postoperative Destination		
Extubated (Intensive Care Unit)	1 (6%)	
Intubated (Intensive Care Unit)	1 (6%)	
Extubated (Medical High Care Unit)	14 (82%)	
Intubated (Medical High Care Unit)	1 (6%)	
Interventional Radiology Management		
Exposure Time (hour : minute)	03:52 [03:16 – 05:37]	
Contrast Volume (mL)	235.00 [157.5 – 300]	
Skin Dose Radiation (mGray)	540.5 [447.3 – 931.5]	

American Society of Anaesthesiologists Physical Status Classification (ASA), Double Lumen Endotracheal Tube (DLT), Single Lumen Endotracheal Tube (SLT), Central Venous Catheter (CVC), Heart rate (HR), Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP), Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP), Mean Arterial Blood Pressure (MAP), Oxygen saturation (O2 Sats), Haemoglobin (Hb), International normalized ration (INR), Arterial Blood Gas (ABG), Interquartile Rand (IQR).

Hospital ward files were found for only six of the patients in the records department at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. Loss of records, clerical errors with duplicate file numbers and patients treated as outpatients were some of the reasons behind the absence of the hospital ward files. The pulmonology database only had

details for seven of the patients identified with RA who had anaesthesia records, one of which was noted to have passed away two days after his PAE. In terms of 7-day mortality, the hospital admission electronic database recorded no deaths for the other fifteen patients and of the six patients whose hospital ward files were found, none reported haemoptysis post-PAE. In addition, six of the seven patients recorded in the pulmonology database were discharged without any complications noted.

3.5 Discussion

Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare with a prevalence ranging from between 0.25% to 4-5% in patients with TB (7, 8). We recorded a prevalence of 9% for this complication in patients presenting to our IR suite with haemoptysis. The gender distribution in our cohort was 81% male and 19% female. Ivkovic *et al.*, reported the following gender distribution in their cohort of RA, 55.6% were male and 44.33% were female (8). Gauteng's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) TB prevalence data for 2018 shows a higher prevalence of TB infections in males in the age cohort of 25 years or older compared to females, whereas there is higher prevalence in females compared to males for the age cohort of 15 to 24 years (26). The median age of the three females in the study cohort was 19 years (17, 19 and 31 years respectively) and the median age for the 13 males in the study was 34 years. This follows the trend suggested by the NICD data for TB, however further screening of patients with TB for RA in our setting may help to determine if RA are more prevalent in males. Understanding the prevalence of RA will assist with the identification of cases, thus allowing for early intervention and prevention of morbidity and mortality. Further investigation would be necessary to establish true prevalence rates for South Africa.

Seven of the sixteen patients presented with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which is associated with an increased risk for cardiovascular disease and the development of arterial aneurysms (27). Patients with HIV and active TB are more likely to present with haemoptysis (7). Tuberculosis is often the initial presentation of an underlying HIV infection (28). It is not known if HIV is an independent risk factor for the development of RA and it is postulated that HIV may play a role in recurrent haemoptysis post-BAE (29). Further investigation would be needed to evaluate the role HIV plays in the development of RA.

A history of current or previous smoking in five of the sixteen patients was noted. Smoking is known to increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, especially the risk of developing abdominal aortic aneurysms and intracranial aneurysms (30, 31). Smokers are also more likely to develop cryptogenic massive haemoptysis (22). It is not known if smoking increases the risk of developing a RA and further investigation is warranted.

The method of choice for PAE used in the IR suite at CHBAH is embolization via coiling. Other embolization techniques include the insertion of a gelatin sponge, N-butyl cyanoacrylate (NBCA) glue injection and stent insertion (17, 32). Literature evaluating PAE techniques advocate for the use of NBCA as it is administered as a liquid and can thus block both the aneurysm and its inflow and outflow arteries (17). There is also less risk of aneurysmal rupture with NBCA glue, but its success is operator-dependent and its behaviour can be unpredictable (17). Arif *et al.*, suggest that coil embolization should preferentially be used as an emergency intervention to prevent mortality (33). Coils also provide more proximal occlusion compared to the other techniques and are therefore the method of choice for embolization of pseudoaneurysms such as RA (16). However the placement of the metallic coil proximally may inhibit further embolization attempts if rebleeding occurs (34).

Occlusion of the proximal aspect of a RA often fails to address associated collateral flow (34). This can present as recurrent haemoptysis post successful PAE. Data on the efficacy of coil embolization is limited and historic for Bronchial artery embolization, however it is the recommended technique employed for the embolization of pulmonary artery aneurysms (9, 34-36). There is an increased risk of aneurysmal rupture with the use of metallic coils and care must be taken during placement to avoid overpacking the aneurysm or advancing either the catheter or coil through the aneurysmal wall (36).

Most patients had no complications during their PAE, but two patients did require an adrenaline infusion to support their haemodynamics during their PAE, one of whom was the patient where the aneurysm ruptured during the PAE. Three patients had reported difficulty with ventilation on their anaesthetic records during the procedure, two of which were reported to have a clot blocking their endotracheal tube on extubation. Two of the patients developed an arrhythmia during guidewire

placement prior to aneurysm coiling, one of whom then required adenosine and an amiodarone infusion. Common complications of AE reported in the literature include re-canalization of embolized arteries, incomplete embolization of existing arteries, development of collateral blood supply, inadvertent rupture of the aneurysm or arterial dissection, transient chest pain or back pain and dysphagia (15, 16, 32, 37). The most severe complication is spinal cord ischemia secondary to embolization of the anterior spinal arteries (15). This severe complication was not reported in any of the patients in this study.

The Society of Interventional Radiology recommend that staff in the IR suite have up-to-date advanced cardiac life support certifications (38-40). The anaesthesiologist plays a role in providing cardio-respiratory support in the event of adverse events such as aneurysmal rupture and bleeding.

The determination of long-term complications post-PAE was hampered by the lack of available documentation for follow-up and thus we were unable to adequately assess outcomes which was a significant limitation of the study. Of the six patients whose hospital ward files were found, none were noted to have recurrent haemoptysis post-PAE prior to discharge. One patient underwent two PAEs under GA for ongoing haemoptysis which is consistent with the 90% success rate for PAE (7, 15, 18-20). Pulmonary artery embolization can preserve pulmonary function and improve the prognosis for patients with haemoptysis (32, 41). As such, this method is considered one of the most effective non-surgical treatments for massive haemoptysis and has become the standard of care for patients with TB-induced haemoptysis worldwide (16, 17, 42). Only one death was noted 2 days post-BAE in this patient cohort.

3.6 Recommendations for the peri-procedural anaesthetic management

Given this data we propose that the following should be used as a guideline for the anaesthetic management of patients with RA presenting for PAE:

Pre-procedural investigations and patient optimisation:

Patient preparation and optimization is essential when determining the anaesthetic management of a patient with haemoptysis requiring PAE. A multidisciplinary

approach should be followed during pre-procedural optimization (9). Pre-anaesthesia evaluation should include a thorough history, examination and appropriate investigations to identify potential risk factors and areas for further optimization (43).

Arterial embolization requires the injection of contrast medium. Renal function tests can be used as a surrogate to estimate a patient's risk for contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN) (34, 43). Serum creatinine and estimated glomerular filtration rate are used to assess renal function (43).

Pre-procedural investigations should be directed by institution-specific protocols (22, 43, 44). Patients presenting for PAE at CHBAH must have an International Normalized Ratio (INR), a full blood count, urea, electrolytes, and creatinine. It is recommended that patients presenting for PAE have an INR ≤ 1.5 , an aPTT ≤ 1.5 x control and a platelet count $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$ (43, 45), a normal creatinine and Glomerular Filtration Rate and a Haemoglobin $\geq 8g/dL$. Our cohort of patients had a mean haemoglobin level of 10.5 g/dL (9.7 – 11.9), a mean creatinine 67.5 $\mu mol/L$ (50.8 – 76.5), mean INR 1.22 (1.12 – 1.33) and mean platelet count of 393 $\times 10^9/L$ (50.8 – 76.5) which all met the required values according to the CHBAH protocol.

Blood transfusion

The volume of blood loss in haemoptysis can be difficult to quantify and thus the speed of bleeding, the ability of the patient to maintain their airway and expectorate blood, the presence of hemodynamic or respiratory compromise and the patient's physiological reserve are used to determine if the bleed is life-threatening (15, 46-48). The current blood transfusion guidelines from the South African Society of Anaesthesiologists advocate for the rational use of blood products and a transfusion threshold of 7g/dL is recommended (49). Of the patients transfused during their PAE, none had a haemoglobin level of less than 7g/dL. Haemoglobin levels and the patient's hemodynamic status should be considered when using blood products in accordance with local transfusion guidelines.

Arterial embolization is a minimally invasive technique, as such detection and control of bleeding may be difficult due to lack of visualization and ability to immediately control the bleeding (43). Pulmonary artery embolization is considered

a moderate bleeding risk intervention (43, 45). Patients should have a type and screen done before the procedure in case they need transfusion, and these transfusions should be guided by institutional transfusion guidelines.

Invasive monitoring

It is important to appropriately blunt the sympathetic response to intubation and extubation in patients with RA, as excessive sympathetic stimulation can precipitate an increase in pulmonary vascular resistance which can cause right ventricular failure, aneurysmal rupture, and sudden death (50, 51). The use of invasive blood pressure monitoring provides measurement of beat-to-beat variability, which is useful in situations where rapid changes in blood pressure are anticipated, such as at intubation and extubation (51, 52). The insertion of an arterial line also allows for repetitive arterial gas sampling (52). Most of our cohort did not have pre-induction invasive blood pressure monitoring. The risk of significant complications from excessive sympathetic stimulation during intubation supports the insertion of pre-induction invasive blood pressure monitoring.

Anaesthesia technique

Arterial embolization can take between two to four hours to perform (53). General anaesthesia is the preferred technique for PAE management of RA as it provides patient immobility and controlled ventilation. This provides conditions for optimal image acquisition and delivery of treatment (38, 54, 55). Garg *et al.*, advise that a minimum of two peripheral lines be inserted for any procedure being performed under general anaesthesia in the IR suite (54). Access to the patient may be limited due to the ergonomics of the IR suite, therefore extension lines and three-way taps may need to be added to the infusion lines to provide better access (25, 54).

Airway management

The use of a double lumen tube (DLT) was the method of choice for securing the airway in our cohort of patients, however no mention was made in the anaesthetic records of one lung ventilation (OLV) during these procedures. Of the two instances where a single lumen tube (SLT) was used, only one had its SLT advanced into the main stem bronchus of the unaffected side to allow for OLV and was only used as

they were unable to adequately ventilate with a DLT. In the other instance of SLT, the aneurysm ruptured, resulting in massive haemoptysis and a DLT would have had to be inserted in less-than-ideal circumstances to provide OLV and isolation.

Radchenko *et al.*, advise that a large lumen SLT is faster and easier to insert than a DLT in the setting of ongoing massive haemoptysis (22). A large lumen SLT allows for the passage of a fiberoptic bronchoscope to assist in identifying the site of bleeding, provide suction and bronchial lavage and assist in the placement of a bronchial blocker or Fogarty catheter to provide OLV. An SLT can also be directed into the mainstem bronchus of the unaffected side with the assistance of a fiberoptic bronchoscope to provide OLV (22). Insertion of a DLT requires experience and a fiberoptic bronchoscope to confirm placement and may require multiple attempts to achieve the correct placement (22). A DLT's lumen is also smaller, and often only accommodates a paediatric fiberoptic bronchoscope which can be inefficient when attempting to clear clots from the airway. As none of our patient cohort had active haemoptysis at the time of their PAE, the use of a DLT to secure their airways can be supported as there would have been no urgency to secure the airway, thus allowing for the technically challenging insertion of a DLT (22).

Anaesthesia skill level

Anaesthesia in the IR suite can present multiple challenges to the anaesthesiologist (23). These include an unfamiliar location and equipment, lack of drugs or supplies, limited workspace and patient access, uncomfortable positioning of the patient, low temperature environments, and unfamiliarity with procedures and personnel (21, 23, 25). These challenges can hinder the provision of safe anaesthetic care and it is hypothesized that protocolized care may help to improve safety and patient experience (21, 23). Attentive preparation of the IR suite is essential and should be guided by the American Society of Anaesthesiologists recommendations (25).

The anaesthetic technique used depends on the anaesthesiologist's knowledge of the procedure, intraoperative and post-operative requirements (56). The most severe complication in our cohort was aneurysmal rupture requiring admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) post-procedure. The lack of consultant coverage in this case could have played a role in the patient's outcome. The technical challenges of

NORA and the technical challenges of DLT insertion mean that it is advisable to have consultant coverage to ensure optimal decision making and treatment of these patients. Further investigation would be required to determine if clinical maturity plays a role in patient outcomes.

Post operative management

It is recommended that patients be admitted to a high dependency or ICU post-procedure for close monitoring and routine post-arterial embolization care to reduce the risk of adverse outcomes such as bleeding (39, 44, 53). Where possible, the anaesthesiologist should aim to extubate the patient at the end of their PAE. Patients with RA often have poor respiratory function and have an increased risk for peri-operative respiratory complications (51). The guidelines for tracheal extubation published by the Difficult Airway Society should be followed to guide extubation in this setting (57).

3.7 Limitations

There were several limitations to this study. The main limitation was due to the rarity of RA. Limitations also arose as data collection relied on obtaining historical paper records, some of which could not be traced. Data collection also relied on the depth and accuracy of the record keeping, the standards of which varied between the anaesthesia providers, interventional radiologists, and follow-up notes by the pulmonologists. We were also unable to accurately assess outcomes and mortality due to missing records.

The lack of electronic records at CHBAH and the lack of granular data in the NICD TB database prevents calculation of comparable prevalence rates for RA in TB positive patients. The inclusion of data from other centres offering PAE in South Africa and the completion of CT scans on all patients with TB in South Africa would give a more accurate estimation of the local prevalence rates of RA. However, these improvements are beyond the scope of this case series.

3.8 Conclusion

Despite the limitations, this study still provided some insight into the prevalence of RA in patients presenting with haemoptysis for PAE in our setting. It also highlighted

that there is a clear need to develop protocolized guidelines for the anaesthetic management of these patients due to the complexity of the patient presentation, the challenges of providing an anaesthetic service in the interventional radiology suite and the risk of severe complications.

3.9 Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

3.10 Acknowledgement

This research was done in partial fulfilment of a Master of Medicine degree. The authors would like to thank the CHBAH Departments of Anaesthesiology, Interventional Radiology, Pulmonology and Records for their assistance in obtaining the data for this study.

3.11 References

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Chapter 4 Proposal

Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital

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4.1 Introduction and problem statement

According to the World Health Organization, Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the top ten causes of mortality globally, with approximately 10 million cases identified in 2019 (1, 2). Globally, Africa accounts for 25% of annual cases of TB, and the incidence in South Africa is approximately 615 per 100 000 (1, 3). The incidence of TB in South Africa, and globally, has been decreasing, but it still carries a significant public health burden, especially in developing countries (2). The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019 has led to concern that the gains made in reducing the burden of disease of TB may regress due to the reallocation of resources (1, 4).

The clinical manifestations of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection can be varied, with pulmonary disease affecting the lung parenchyma, pleura, airways and vascular structures (4, 5). Eight percent of patients may present with haemoptysis which can range from mild to life-threatening, with mortality ranging from 5-25% (5, 6). In developing countries, TB is the leading cause of haemoptysis (7-10). Haemoptysis in TB can occur in patients with active infection or in patients who are post-TB therapy (11). Inflammation and hypoxia incites the propagation of blood vessels in response to the release of vascular endothelial growth factor and angiopoietin-1 (10). New blood vessels tend to be thin-walled and prone to rupture (10). Proangiogenic factors affect both the bronchial and pulmonary artery supplies (5, 10, 12, 13). Patients who are post-TB therapy have distortion of their lung parenchyma with altered vasculature which is prone to rupture and cause haemoptysis (11).

Minor haemoptysis in active TB is usually self-limiting and often responds to conventional TB therapy (14). Massive haemoptysis in TB occurs due to chronic parenchymal disease. It is an uncommon, but life-threatening complication (10, 14, 15). Massive haemoptysis has a high mortality rate, with more than 75% of patients demising if conservatively managed (9, 10, 15, 16). Massive haemoptysis is challenging to manage and requires aggressive measures to elicit cause and initiate prompt therapy (9). Mortality in massive haemoptysis occurs due to aspiration of blood resulting in asphyxiation, severe hypoxaemia, and hypotension (7, 9, 17, 18). The lungs have a dual blood supply. Ninety percent of cases presenting with

haemoptysis arise from bronchial artery bleeds and 10% arise from pulmonary artery aneurysms, 5% of which are due to Rasmussen's aneurysms (10, 16, 19, 20).

Rasmussen's aneurysms were first identified by Fritz Valdemar Rasmussen in 1868 in a series of autopsies conducted on patients who had TB with haemoptysis (2, 11, 15, 20-24). Traditionally, a Rasmussen's aneurysm is defined as a pseudoaneurysm of a peripheral pulmonary artery which is adjacent to a TB cavity, and typically occurs in the upper lobes of the lung (15, 20, 21, 25, 26). However, it now has a wider definition and includes all aneurysms or pseudoaneurysms involving pulmonary arteries in the presence of a disease which causes destruction of pulmonary parenchyma, such as Behçet's disease (15, 20, 21, 25, 27). Granulomatous infiltration of arterial walls results in vascular remodelling due to fibrin deposits and caseation which results in progressive weakening of the vessel causing dilatation (11, 28, 29).

Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, and case reports in the literature usually report on single cases. They have a reported prevalence of 5% in autopsy series (30). Ivkovic et al screened 21 532 patients with TB using multidetector computed tomography angiography and found 54 patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms (0.25% incidence) (31). The exact incidence of Rasmussen's aneurysms has not been reported (32). Although rare, the risk for life-threatening complications such as massive haemoptysis or pulmonary artery dissection is high therefore early identification and management is essential (23, 33). The gold standard for investigation is a computed tomography angiogram as it provides anatomical information about the Rasmussen's aneurysm, identifies potential causes and guides management (15, 26). However, Rasmussen's aneurysms are not routinely looked for and can be missed on computed tomography pulmonary angiogram (CTPA) (23).

Patients with massive haemoptysis tend to be poor surgical candidates with reduced respiratory reserve and are at high risk for post-operative complications such as persistent air leaks, bronchopulmonary fistulae, and coagulopathy (34, 35). This is further complicated by the lack of clear guidelines for perioperative anaesthetic management of these patients (35). The advantage of surgical management is that it provides definitive treatment of massive haemoptysis because it removes the

source of bleeding (35). Surgery in these high-risk patients is associated with mortality rates of 7.1-18.2% which increases to 40-50% if surgery is done in the emergent setting (5, 12, 36-38). Surgical adverse outcomes are associated with advanced age, pleural adhesions, pneumonectomy and bronchiectasis (39).

The use of bronchial artery embolization (BAE) in haemoptysis was first described in 1974 and it has become the standard of care for patients with TB-induced haemoptysis who are considered too high risk for surgery (40, 41). BAE is a minimally invasive technique which improves mortality in massive haemoptysis to 13-17.8% and has a success rate of approximately 90% (10, 11, 42-44). The use of a minimally invasive techniques can save pulmonary function and improve prognosis (45, 46). It can also be used in patients with multiple aneurysms (45, 47). BAE can also act as a bridging therapy to definitive surgical management (11). BAE is one of the most effective non-surgical treatments for massive haemoptysis (35). Traditionally, the interventional radiologist will start with an evaluation of the bronchial arterial system to try to locate the source of bleeding. If the source of bleeding cannot be identified, a systematic and sequential review of the pulmonary and systemic circulation will be conducted to try locate the source (48). This is recommended in order to reduce the risk of rebleeding and improve control of haemoptysis (48). In a resource limited setting such as South Africa, with a high burden of disease of TB, diagnostic tools and specialist management options such as BAE may not be readily available which contributes to the high mortality of massive haemoptysis (11).

BAE typically takes place in the interventional radiology suite. This falls under the domain of non-operating room anaesthesia (NORA) (49). The field of interventional radiology has been advancing rapidly in the past few years and there is growing demand for anaesthesia support (49-52). NORA in the interventional radiology suite can present multiple challenges to the anaesthesiologist (50). These include an unfamiliar location and equipment, lack of drugs or supplies, limited workspace and patient access, uncomfortable positioning of patient, cold environment, and unfamiliarity with procedures and personnel (49, 50, 52). These challenges can hinder the provision of safe anaesthetic care and protocolised care may help to improve safety and patient experience (49, 50). The anaesthetic technique used

depends on the anaesthesiologist's knowledge of the procedure which includes the duration, possible complications, intraoperative requirements and post-operative requirements (53). Patients who are managed in interventional radiology tend to be sicker, older and with more complex than those presenting for traditional surgery (49, 53, 54).

In the setting of massive haemoptysis, initial management of the patient utilises the following advanced cardiac life support principles: secure the airway, optimise oxygenation, and stabilise the haemodynamic status (5, 9, 39, 55). This often requires the involvement of a multidisciplinary team consisting of the anaesthesiologist, interventional radiologist, and surgeon (55, 56).

Initial airway management can be achieved with a single lumen endotracheal tube until the site of bleeding has been identified, either via fiberoptic bronchoscopy, chest computed tomography or bronchial artery embolization (9, 39). Once the site of the bleed has been identified, lung isolation can be achieved through a tube exchange with a double-lumen endotracheal tube, use of a bronchial blocker or advancement of the single-lumen endotracheal tube into the main bronchus of the unaffected side (9). The patient should then be positioned with the bleeding side in the dependent position to optimise oxygenation of the unaffected lung (55).

BAE will provide immediate control of a bleed in 75-90% of patients (9). The type of anaesthetic technique and fluid management choice is dependent on the patient's condition (52, 53, 56). Anaesthetic techniques which can be used include sedation with monitored anaesthesia care, regional or neuraxial techniques or general anaesthesia (52). As mentioned above, massive haemoptysis often necessitates the use of lung isolation techniques (53). Patients may also require massive transfusion, inotropic support, and invasive monitoring (53, 55). In patients with mild haemoptysis or those who are stable, the management options are more unclear and there is a general paucity of literature regarding the anaesthetic approach for these patients (53). As such, patients with haemoptysis presenting to interventional radiology are a unique anaesthetic challenge (53).

Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, as such there is a paucity of data with regards to anaesthetic management of these patients in the interventional radiology suite. As

mentioned, the growing popularity of minimally invasive techniques such as BAE means that anaesthesia support in the interventional radiology suit is becoming more frequent. There are currently no clear or definitive therapeutic guidelines for the management of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysm (57, 58).

4.2 Aim and objectives

4.2.1 Aim

The aim of this study is to describe the periprocedural anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms to interventional radiology for BAE at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

4.2.2 Objectives

The primary objectives of this study are to determine the periprocedural anaesthetic management approach used for patients undergoing interventional radiology procedures for Rasmussen's aneurysms at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and to use this to design a guideline for management based on the findings.

The secondary objectives of this study are to determine:

- The demographics of patients presenting to interventional radiology with Rasmussen's aneurysms
- The interventional radiology technique employed to manage the Rasmussen's aneurysm
- The outcomes of the intervention employed to manage the Rasmussen's aneurysm.

4.3 Research assumptions

The following definitions will be used in the study:

Aneurysm: focal dilatation of a blood vessel, typically arterial, which affects the intima, media, and adventitia. They can be divided into fusiform/symmetric

(dilatation involves entire circumference of the blood vessel) or saccular/asymmetric (only part of the circumference is dilated) (59, 60).

Pseudoaneurysm: also known as false aneurysms. They occur at the site of an arterial wall injury with a haematoma formation in the local tissues (20, 61).

Pulmonary artery aneurysm: focal dilatation of pulmonary artery beyond normal diameter (> 29mm main pulmonary artery and >17 mm interlobar pulmonary artery) (25, 26).

Pulmonary artery pseudoaneurysm: focal saccular dilatation of a pulmonary artery due to a contained rupture of the artery (26, 62).

Rasmussen's aneurysm: pseudoaneurysm of the pulmonary artery caused by erosion into the artery by an adjacent TB cavity (11, 20, 21, 28)

Bronchial artery aneurysm: dilatation of bronchial artery

Haemoptysis: expectoration of blood (11).

Massive haemoptysis: the expectoration of more than 600ml blood over 24 hours, or more than 250ml in a single episode, or bronchial blood loss resulting in haemodynamic or respiratory compromise (38, 63, 64).

Interventional radiology: the use of various radiological imaging techniques to diagnose diseases or injuries and the use of these to perform a range of interventional medical procedures (65).

Bronchial Artery embolization (BAE): the use of interventional radiology techniques to embolise bronchial or pulmonary artery aneurysms.

BAE Outcomes: described in terms of immediate clinical success, failure of intervention, recurrence of haemoptysis, and long term control of haemoptysis (40).

Non-operating room anaesthesia (NORA): delivery of anaesthesia by a trained anaesthesiologist in a site other than an operating theatre (49).

Haemodynamic instability: described in terms of the Haemodynamic Instability score, looking at changes in heart rate, blood pressure, volume therapy and use of vasopressor or inotropic support (66).

Morbidity: described in term of complications such as recurrence of rebleed, failure of BAE intervention, need for transfusion or inotropic support.

Mortality: the seven-day mortality post BAE intervention.

4.4 Demarcation of study field

All patients presenting to interventional radiology at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital for BAE since the initiation of the service in January 2017 will have their records in the interventional radiology department reviewed. All patients identified with a diagnosis of a Rasmussen's aneurysm from these cases will be selected for inclusion in the study.

4.5 Ethical considerations

Approval to conduct the study will be obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical), the Graduate Studies Committee of the University of the Witwatersrand and the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital Medical Advisory Committee. Approval to conduct the study was obtained from the Head of Department of Anaesthesiology of the University of Witwatersrand (Appendix 1).

The study will be conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki (67) and the South African Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice (68).

4.6 Research methodology

4.6.1 Research design

A retrospective case series design will be used in this study. Retrospective case series are useful when a rare or new disease or treatment is being described (69). Data in retrospective case series is collected after the event or activity has occurred and the outcome of these are known (70, 71). The use of existing data is quicker and has lower costs and there is no loss to follow-up (72). The data collected for a

retrospective case series can also be used to generate hypotheses which can be studied at a later stage (72).

4.6.2 Study population

The study population will consist of all the patients identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms during the period January 2017 (date of inception of the BAE service) to June 2021 in the Interventional Radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

4.6.3 Study sample

Sample size

All patients identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms presenting to the interventional radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital will be included in the sample. To date, an estimated 208 BAE have been performed with a minimum of 20 patients having been identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms. The sample size will be realised by the records identified and will be approximately 20-25.

Sampling method

A purposive sampling method will be used for this study. This utilises a non-probability sampling method and is based on the judgement of the researcher regarding the participants that are deemed representative of the study phenomenon, or who have knowledge regarding the question being investigated (73). Purposive sampling is also known as judgemental sampling.

All the patients presenting for BAE during the period of January 2017 to June 2021 will have their records in interventional radiology department at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital screened. All patients identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms will be selected. The anaesthetic records, case notes from interventional radiology and the patients' hospital files will be interrogated to extract the data needed to answer the objectives of the study.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

All cases of Rasmussen's aneurysm will be included in the study. There are no exclusion criteria.

4.6.4 Data collection

The cases identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms will be included in the study. Anaesthetic charts, interventional radiology case notes and patients' hospital files will be interrogated to extract the data required to answer the aims and objectives of this study. Data will be collated in an Excel spreadsheet

4.6.5 Data analysis

Data obtained will be captured onto a Microsoft Excel spread sheet and analysed in consultation with a biostatistician using Stata version 15 (StataCorp, USA). Descriptive statistics will be used, and categorical variables will be described using frequencies and percentages. Continuous variables will be reported using means and standard deviations or medians and interquartile ranges depending on the distribution of the data. Where appropriate, 95% confidence intervals will be reported.

4.7 Significance of the study

Although Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, if they present with massive haemoptysis, they have a high mortality rate (9, 10, 15, 16). Minimally invasive treatment techniques for Rasmussen's aneurysms using interventional radiology are gaining popularity. There is a paucity of data with regards to anaesthetic management of these patients in the interventional radiology suite and there are currently no clear or definitive therapeutic guidelines for the anaesthetic management of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms (57, 58). The number of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms presenting to the interventional radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital provides us with a unique opportunity to study a cohort of these patients, which are usually represented in the literature as individual case reports. The results of this study should provide us the opportunity to explore our unique burden of disease to provide insight into the anaesthetic management techniques used for patients with Rasmussen's

aneurysms as well provide demographic information and outcomes of the interventions.

4.8 Validity and reliability of the study

Validity refers to the extent to which a measurement represents a true value and reliability elicits the consistency of the measurements (70).

Validity and reliability of this study will be achieved by the following:

- using an appropriate study design.
- identification of cases with Rasmussen's aneurysms done by the Interventional Radiology Suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and review of their case notes and anaesthetic charts.
- analysing the data in consultation with a biostatistician.

There are two potential areas where validity may be compromised by utilising a retrospective case study design, these include "recall effect" and "spoiler effect" (70, 72). The "recall effect" occurs due to imperfect recollection of facts or poor clinical note taking when reviewing charts (70). One way to limit bias due to recall is to identify hard facts (70). This can be achieved by reviewing the case notes and anaesthetic charts of the cases identified with Rasmussen's aneurysms. The "spoiler effect" arises from inadvertent skewing of data in the presence of prior knowledge (70). This can result in inadvertent exaggeration of data to support a hypothesis or under-exaggeration of poor, inconsistent data (70). As Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, we may inadvertently exaggerate our data because of the small sample size.

4.9 Potential limitations

There are several potential limitations to using a retrospective case study design. We are relying on being able to access historic anaesthetic charts and notes for the cases of Rasmussen's aneurysm identified by the Interventional Radiology Suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. Information recorded on these charts may be incomplete which will limit the data which can be obtained. Rasmussen's

aneurysms are rare and as such case numbers may be small and the data collected may not be truly representative.

4.10 Project outline

4.10.1 Time frame

ACTIVITY	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021
Proposal preparation												
Proposal submission												
Ethics approval												
Postgrad approval												
Data collection												
Data analysis												
Article												
Submission												

4.10.2 Budget

Item	Number	Cost (R)	Total (R)
Printing	1500	1	1500
Binding	2	20	40
Total			R1540

The cost of the paper and printing of the postgraduate application will be incurred by the Department of Anaesthesiology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

4.11 References

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4.12 Appendices

4.12.1 Appendix 1: Letters of approval to conduct study

Hannah Stuart-Clark
Anaesthesiology registrar
University of the Witwatersrand
Student number: 2062634

5 June 2021

Prof. Palesa Motshabi
Principal Specialist
Head of Department of Anaesthesiology
University of the Witwatersrand

Dear Prof. Motshabi,

RE: Permission to conduct a study

I would like to request permission to conduct the MMed study titled: Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital.

The aim of this study is to describe the periprocedural anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms to interventional radiology for bronchial artery embolization at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

Tuberculosis has a high burden of disease in South Africa and approximately 5% of patients who present with haemoptysis are found to have a Rasmussen's aneurysm. Although Rasmussen's aneurysms are rare, if they present with massive

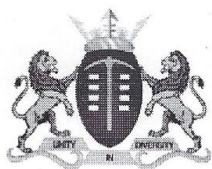
haemoptysis, they have a high mortality rate. In our resource limited setting, the availability of diagnostic tools and specialist management options such as bronchial artery embolization may not be readily available for patients who present with massive haemoptysis.

The use of minimally invasive techniques for the management of these patients is gaining popularity, however there is a paucity of data with regards to anaesthetic management in the interventional radiology suite. There are currently no clear or definitive therapeutic guidelines for the anaesthetic management of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms. The interventional radiology suite at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital provides us with the unique opportunity to review the management of patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms. Most of the literature on the topic focuses on single case reports due to the rarity of the pathology. The results of this study will provide insight into anaesthetic techniques used for patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms as well as provide demographic information and outcomes of the interventions used.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Stuart-Clark

Approval granted:



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH ACADEMIC HOSPITAL

DIRECTORATE - ANAESTHESIA

Enquiries: Dr P. Mogane

Tel. number: (011) 933-9334

Email: Palesa.Mogane@wits.ac.za

Department of Anaesthesiology
Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
PO Bertsham
2013
14th June 2021

To whom it may concern

RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

This serves to confirm that I grant permission for Dr Hannah-Stuart Clark to conduct research involving the Department of Anaesthesia at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. The research topic is titled:

The evaluation of anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients presenting with Rasmussen's aneurysms at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic hospital.

I'd like to wish her luck in this endeavor and I am happy to support her wherever possible.

Kind regards.

Dr Palesa Mogane

Chief specialist and Head of Department

Department of Anaesthesiology

Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital

University of Witwatersrand

Email: Palesa.Mogane@wits.ac.za



RE: RESEARCH PROJECT IN CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH ACADEMIC HOSPITAL

Dear Sir/Madam

Project title- Retrospective case series anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital
at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital:
Period of study: January 2017 to June 2021

Study type: Retrospective case series

We hereby grant permission to Dr Hannah Stuart-Clark application, a Masters student from the University of the Witwatersrand, to conduct research in our hospital for purposes of a Masters of Medicine qualification (Anaesthesia). This will include permission to access the radiologic images and reports of all patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms during the study period using the radiology database PACS system.

All data will be anonymous by assigning a pseudo number to each patient.

Permission is granted to Dr Hannah Stuart-Clark, subject to him/her obtaining ethical clearance to conduct research from the Ethics Committee of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and by abiding to its terms.

I have been informed about Dr Hannah Stuart-Clark's research.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Victor Mngomezulu", written over a horizontal line.

Prof. Victor Mngomezulu
Head of Clinical Department: Diagnostic Radiology
Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH ACADEMIC HOSPITAL

PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

Date: 25 August 2021

TITLE OF PROJECT:

Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patient with Rasmussen's aneurysm at an academic hospital.

UNIVERSITY: Witwatersrand

Principal Investigator: Dr HE Stuart-Clark

Department: Anaesthesia

Supervisor/s: Dr P Mogane / Dr J Padi

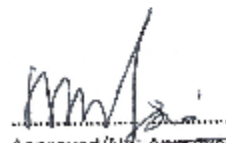
Permission Head Department (where research conducted): Yes

NHRD No. 202106 037

The Medical Advisory Committee recommends that the said research be conducted at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. The CEO / management of Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital is accordingly informed and the study is subject to:-

- Permission having been granted by the Committee for Research on Human Subjects of the University of the Witwatersrand.
- The Hospital will not incur extra costs as a result of the research being conducted on its patients within the hospital
- The MAC will be informed of any serious adverse events as soon as they occur
- Permission is granted for the duration of the Ethics Committee Approval.


.....
Recommended
(On behalf of the MAC)
2021/08/25


.....
Approved/Not Approved
Hospital Management
Date: 26/08/2021

Appendix 2: Data collection sheets

Demographics:

Study number	
Age	
Gender	
Race	
Presenting Complaint	
Cause/Diagnosis	
Comorbidities	
Method of diagnosis	

Anaesthetic Management

ASA status	1	2	3	4	E
Anaesthetic performed by	Anaesthesiology staff member		Interventional radiology staff member		
Skill level of anaesthetist	Consultant	Registrar	Medical Officer	Other	

Anaesthesia consultant supervision	Yes		No	
Time of day procedure performed	Weekday 08:00 – 16:00	Weekday 16:00 – 08:00	Weekend 08:00 – 16:00	Weekend 16:00 – 08:00
Vitals pre-procedure	HR	BP	MAP	Sats
Pre-procedure vasopressor or inotropic support	Yes	No	Drug and dose	
Haemodynamic status (according to HI score)	Stable		Unstable	
Anaesthetic technique	GA	LA	Sedation	
Airway management	Spontaneous		Control	
Airway management technique	FMO ₂	SLT	DLT	LMA
One lung ventilation/isolation	Yes		No	
Isolation technique	DLT	Bronchial blocker	SLT advanced into non affected side main bronchus	Other
Invasive monitoring	Arterial Line	Central Venous Cather	Other	
	Site	Site		
Complications				

(Need for inotropic support, need for transfusion, difficult lung isolation, etc)								
Anaesthetic chart	Completed adequately				Chart available			
Initial ABG	pH	pCO2	pO2	Hb/Hct	HCO3	Lac	BE	Sats
Serial ABGs	pH	pCO2	pO2	Hb/Hct	HCO3	Lac	BE	Sats
	pH	pCO2	pO2	Hb/Hct	HCO3	Lac	BE	Sats
	pH	pCO2	pO2	Hb/Hct	HCO3	Lac	BE	Sats
	pH	pCO2	pO2	Hb/Hct	HCO3	Lac	BE	Sats
Post-operative destination	Ward		High Care		ICU		Other	

Intervention used and outcomes

Interventional technique used	Coiling	Glue embolization or other	Stent	Other
Complications				

(Difficult embolization, failure of embolization, etc)	
Duration of procedure	
Volume of contrast used	
Dose of radiation	
Morbidity (rebleed, need for re-embolization)	Mortality (7 day)

Chapter 5 Annexures

5.1 Ethics approval

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
JOHANNESBURG

R49 Dr HE Stuart-Clark

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (MEDICAL)
CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE NO. M210717

NAME: Dr HE Stuart-Clark
(Principal Investigator)

DEPARTMENT: School of Clinical Medicine
Department of Anaesthesiology
Medical School
University

PROJECT TITLE: *Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital*

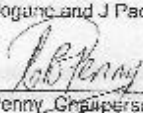
DATE CONSIDERED: 2021/07/30

DECISION: Approved unconditionally

CONDITIONS:

NOTE: If contact information regarding student study participants is required, please contact the Registrar's office - <Nicoleen.Potgieter@wits.ac.za>

SUPERVISOR: Drs P Mogane and J Padi

APPROVED BY: 
Dr CB Penny, Chairperson, HREC (Medical)

DATE OF APPROVAL: 2021/08/20

This Clearance Certificate is valid for 5 years from the date of approval. An extension may be applied for.

DECLARATION OF INVESTIGATORS

To be completed in duplicate and ONE COPY returned to the Research Office secretariat on the 3rd floor, Phillip Tobias Building, Parktown, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

I/we fully understand the conditions under which I am/we are authorized to carry out the above-mentioned research and I/we undertake to ensure compliance with these conditions. Should any departure be contemplated from the research protocol as approved, I/we undertake to submit details to the Committee. I agree to submit a yearly progress report. When a funder requires annual re-certification, the application date will be one year after the date when the study was initially reviewed. In this case, the study was initially reviewed in July and therefore reports and re-certification will be due in the month of July each year. Unreported changes to the study may invalidate the clearance given by the HREC (Medical).


Signature of Principal Investigator

21/09/2021
Date

5.2 Graduate studies approval



Private Bag 3 Wits, 2050
Fax: 027117172119
Tel: 02711 7172076

Reference: Mrs Sandra Benn
E-mail: sandra.benn@wits.ac.za

31 August 2021
Person No: 2062634
PAG

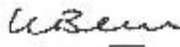
Dr HE Stuart-Clark
Suite 80
Private Bag X 4006
Fondale
2194
South Africa

Dear Dr Hannah Stuart-Clark

Master of Medicine in Anaesthesia: Approval of Title

We have pleasure in advising that your proposal entitled *Retrospective case series of the anaesthetic management and outcomes of patients with Rasmussen's aneurysms at an academic hospital* has been approved. Please note that any amendments to this title have to be endorsed by the Faculty's higher degrees committee and formally approved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Benn'.

Mrs Sandra Benn
Faculty Registrar
Faculty of Health Sciences



5.3 Turnitin report

MMed report write up for turnitin-c099f6d3-3096-4d03-b733-d2b867a12bea.docx

ORIGINALITY REPORT

14%	8%	12%	1%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

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