

Intrapleural Tissue Plasminogen Activator (TPA) and DNase in Pleural Infection

- Clinical presentation compatible with pleural infection &
- Pleural fluid is:
 - purulent **or**
 - gram stain positive **or**
 - culture positive **or**
 - acidic with a pH <7.2

Administer intra-pleural Alteplase 10 mg in NS 30 ml

Clamp chest tube for 1 hour

Repeat BID x 3 days

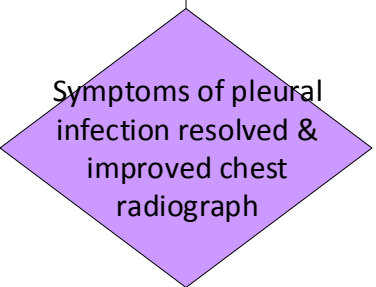
Administer intra-pleural Dnase 5mg in H2O 30 ml

Unclamp chest tube for 1 hour

Unclamp chest tube

Clamp chest tube for 1 hour

Surgery may be considered where signs & symptoms thought to be due to pleural infection are still present at least 48 hours AFTER trial drug administration is completed. Poor radiographic response in a patient showing acceptable symptom improvement is NOT an indication for surgery.



Reference
 Rahman N, Maskell N, West A, et al. Intrapleural use of tissue plasminogen activator and Dnase in pleural infection. N Engl J Med. 2011;365:518-26.