



Current Trends and Future Challenges in Thoracic Anesthesia

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Manuel Granell Gil

Prof. Dr. Izumi Kawagoe

Prof. Dr. Edmond Cohen

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:
closed (31 October 2024)

Message from the Guest Editors

Advances in thoracic surgery have been facilitated by improvements in anaesthetic techniques and perioperative care. This has evolved from knowledge based on evidence-based medicine to **personalised and precision medicine**.

Methods of airway management include **lung isolation and separation** techniques checked by fibroscope or orotracheal tubes or double-lumen tubes with built-in camera permitting to reduce the incidence of intraoperative hypoxaemia and tracheobronchial tree damage.

Lung protective ventilation has become especially important during thoracic surgery, both during one-lung and two-lung ventilation. These techniques have been based on tidal volume adjustments, optimal PEEP, and alveolar recruitment manoeuvres, always limiting airway pressures to acceptable values.

Analgesia methods are based on **locoregional techniques** adapted to the type of surgical approach; today, techniques such as **paravertebral block and erector spinae block** allow a faster and safer recovery. Of course, **chronic pain** is a particularly relevant aspect associated with this surgical speciality.





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Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Andrès

Internal Medicine Department,
University Hospital Strasbourg,
67000 Strasbourg, France

Prof. Dr. Kent Doi

Department of Acute Care
Medicine, University of Tokyo,
Tokyo, Japan

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Journal of Clinical Medicine Editorial
Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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