

# TOP<sub>ic</sub> Of The Day:

## MANAGEMENT OF MALIGNANT PLEURAL EFFUSION

*The Thoracic Oncology Program (TOP) at Upstate Medical University would like to introduce you to a unique device for the management of malignant pleural effusion that can greatly improve the quality of life for many cancer patients.*

### **PLEURX® CATHETER**

TOP has been using the PleurX® catheter for several years for patients with malignant pleural effusions and has achieved excellent results. It may hold similar promise for your symptomatic cancer patients as well.

The procedure is usually done on an outpatient basis, which our patients and families appreciate. Using a local anesthetic and sedation, the surgeon inserts a flexible catheter in the pleural space. A one-way valve on the tubing allows the patient or caregiver to drain it whenever symptoms demand. Other than the five to ten minutes needed for drainage, it is hidden underneath the patient's clothing. While the catheter can stay in place for months, the average time is 29 days. Continuous drainage eventually stops fluid production and accumulation. At that point, we remove the catheter...right in the office.

Patients and families easily learn and adapt to the daily drainage routine, and patients can continue normally with their lives. The catheter does not interfere with chemotherapy, radiation or any other aspect of patient management.

A multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurse practitioners, and social workers addresses issues regarding patient and family education, insurance and third-party payer arrangements, and home care. A nurse practitioner and surgeon are always available to answer questions. Patients are followed monthly to determine the amount of drainage and when the catheter should be removed.

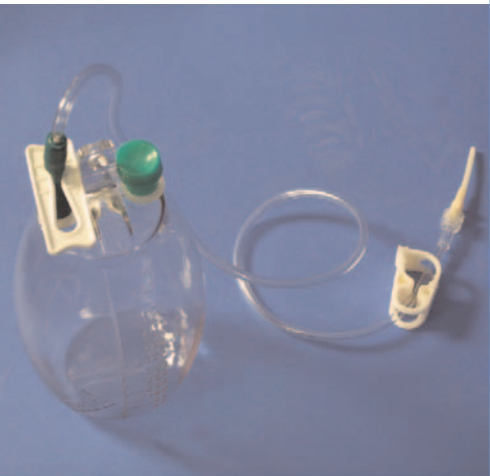
**Upstate's Thoracic Oncology Program is committed to providing optimal care to its patients.** This unique and uncomplicated effusion treatment has proved to be a very effective tool in achieving this goal.

**Elisabeth Dexter, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Thoracic Surgery

**Leslie J. Kohman, MD**

TOP Program Director, Professor of Surgery  
Chair, CALGB Surgery Committee



VIEWS  
FROM  
THE  
**TOP**  
UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL'S  
THORACIC  
ONCOLOGY  
PROGRAM

University Hospital...  
providing **TOP** care  
for your thoracic  
oncology patients.

[www.upstate.edu/top](http://www.upstate.edu/top)

SUNY Upstate Medical University



**TEAM APPROACH** to treating thoracic cancers — including **lung cancer, esophageal cancer, mesothelioma, mediastinal tumors, thymoma, malignant pleural effusion and cancers metastatic to the chest.**

**ONE APPOINTMENT CONVENIENCE** for patients to meet with **specialists from: Thoracic Surgery, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Pulmonary Medicine and Thoracic Radiology.**

**PERIODIC UPDATES** on University Hospital's treatment options for your thoracic oncology patients at the **region's only academic medical center.**

If you would like more information on **management of pleural effusion** please contact us at MD Direct, 800-544-1605.

## TOP Team



**Leslie J. Kohman, MD**  
Program Director  
Professor of Surgery



**Jeffrey A. Bogart, MD**  
Associate Professor of  
Radiation Oncology



**Elisabeth U. Dexter, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
of Surgery



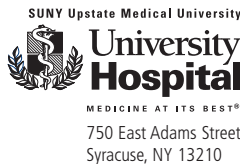
**Stephen L. Graziano, MD**  
Professor of Medicine



**Robert J. Lenox, MD, FCCP**  
Associate Professor of  
Pulmonary and Critical Care  
Medicine



**Ernest M. Scalzetti, MD**  
Professor of Radiology



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