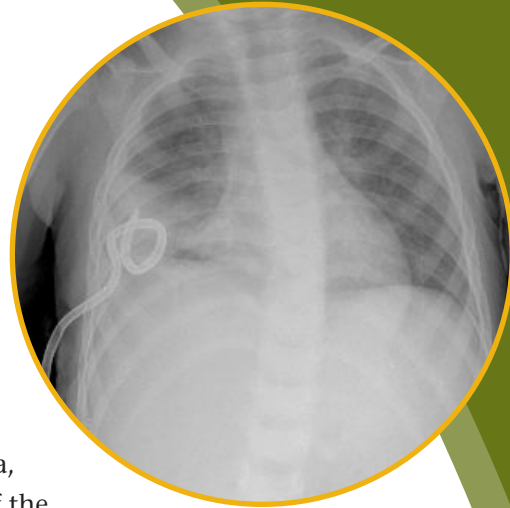


# Catheter Fibrinolysis And Drainage of Pleural Empyema



Description of procedure: Pneumonia complicated with empyema is treated at Nationwide Children's Radiology Department with 98 percent success using percutaneous techniques under deep sedation. Ultrasound is used to assess the empyema tissue detail and predict with greater than 95 percent certainty the likelihood of efficacy of catheter based treatment. Under a combination of ultrasound and fluoroscopic guidance, a small bore pigtail catheter is placed into the empyema, tPA is used to dissolve the fibrinous pleural peel, and treatment of the empyema is usually completed within three to four days.

Impact: Pneumonia is most frequently complicated by empyema, pulmonary abscess and lung necrotizing pneumatocele formation. All of these complications can be treated with percutaneous interventional radiological techniques with greater than 90 percent efficacy. In addition to treatment of sepsis and respiratory distress, percutaneous treatments provide rapid and less painful recovery and increased mobility as compared to other treatment options.

Alternative Procedure: The alternative to percutaneous treatment of empyema is surgical debridement via open thoracotomy or video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery. Necrotizing pneumonia is surgically treated with partial or complete pneumonectomy.

## Information

For more information on any of Nationwide Children's Radiology programs for your patients or practice, please call our Department of Radiology at (614) 722-2355 or the Nationwide Children's Physician Assistance Line at 1-800-927-PEDS.

To refer patients specifically for interventional radiology treatments or procedures, please call (614) 722-2355 or send via fax to (614) 722-2332.

To schedule diagnostic radiology procedures, please call Centralized Scheduling at (614) 722-6200.