

EARLY STAGE NSCLC

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Electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy in the European cohort of the prospective, multicenter NAVIGATE study

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Background: Electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy (ENB) is an image-guided approach to access peripheral pulmonary lesions. ENB has been evaluated in a prospective global study (NAVIGATE, NCT02410837, Khandhar, BMC Pulm Med 2017;17:59). Practice patterns and safety specifically in the full European cohort have not yet been presented. The objective of this study is to evaluate ENB safety and usage in the NAVIGATE European sites.

Methods: NAVIGATE is a global, prospective, multicenter study of ENB (superDimensionTM navigation system) use in community and academic settings. A prespecified 1-month interim analysis was conducted of the European cohort.

Results: Subjects (n = 175) were enrolled at 8 European sites, with complete 1-month follow-up in 99.4%. ENB was used to aid in lung biopsy in 99.4% (174/175) and fiducial marking in 8.0% (14/175). Lymph node sampling was attempted in 12 procedures (9 using linear EBUS). General anesthesia was used in 57%, radial EBUS in 4.0%, conebeam CT in 9.7%, fluoroscopy in 41.7%, and rapid on-site evaluation (ROSE) in 17.9%. The median lesion size was 18.0 mm. Lesions were in the peripheral third of the lung in 72.7% and the upper lobe in 62.6%. A bronchus sign was present in 66.8%. Navigation was successful in 96.6% of biopsy cases. The median ENB planning time was 12.5 minutes. The median total procedure time (bronchoscope in to bronchoscope out) was 43.5 minutes, which included 32.9 minutes of ENB-specific navigation/sampling time (first entry to last exit of the locatable guide or extended working channel). The ENB-related pneumothorax rate was 7.4% (13/175), 5.1% requiring intervention or hospitalization. The ENB-related Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events Grade ≥2 bronchopulmonary hemorrhage and Grade ≥4 respiratory failures rates were 2.3% and 0.6%, respectively. Longer follow-up is required to assess diagnostic vield.

Conclusions: The results from the European cohort of the NAVIGATE study suggest that ENB provides a safe platform to aid in lung lesion biopsy. ENB also allows multidimensional lung lesion biopsy, fiducial placement, and concurrent lymph node sampling during a single anesthetic event.

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