

Pros and Cons of Treatments for Spontaneous Pneumothorax

What is spontaneous pneumothorax?

Pneumothorax is a collapse of your lung that allows air to collect between your ribs and your lung. When this occurs for no particular reason, it is called spontaneous pneumothorax. This is usually a result of abnormal cysts or “blebs” in your lung that pop and leak air. Treatments for this will remove the air that has leaked from the lung, which allows the lung to become fully inflated again. Some treatments try to reduce the chance that this will happen to you again in the future.

Simple Aspiration	Chest tube placement	Surgery (VATS)
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smallest tube possible is placed• You could go home as soon as 6 hours after the procedure• Successful in 6 out of 10 children• If not successful, the small tube can be left in you until the lung heals• Considered the least invasive treatment	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is the most common way to treat a first episode of pneumothorax• The lung may be reinflated more quickly with a larger tube• Successful in 7 out of 10 children with first episode	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes the “blebs” that are leaking air from your lung• Your lung can become stuck to your ribs so it will be less likely to collapse if another “bleb” pops.• Lowest risk of having another pneumothorax (1 out of 10 children)
<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You could develop another pneumothorax (5 out of 10)• The tube could malfunction and need to be replaced with another procedure• Some risks of the procedure include bleeding, infection, pain	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You could develop another pneumothorax (5 out of 10)• You will stay in the hospital longer, until the tube can be removed• You might have more pain with the larger tube in place• The tube could malfunction and need to be replaced with another procedure• Some risks of the procedure include bleeding, infection, pain	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You could develop another pneumothorax (1 out of 10)• Considered the most invasive treatment• Requires general anesthesia• Creates 3 to 4 small cuts and placement of a chest tube• You will stay in the hospital longer, until the tube can be removed• Causes more pain• Some risks of the procedure include bleeding, infection, pain