

## Cryo-Spray Ablation (CSA)

### “True Freeze”

At Georgetown Pulmonary Associates, PA, we have a particular interest in helping patients who suffer from cancer that has either spread to, or originated from the space around the lung. The “Pleural Space” is often affected by a variety of cancers including: mesothelioma, breast cancer, lung cancer, ovarian cancer, melanoma, and others.

Accumulation of fluid or excessive tumor within the pleural space often compresses the lung, which leads to increasing shortness of breath and/or pain (pleurisy) for a patient. Malignant pleural effusions are common and effect over 150,000 Americans yearly.

Cryo-therapy (freezing therapy) has been utilized in the field of medicine and surgery for decades. Various tumors in the body such as skin cancer, prostate cancer, bone cancer, retinoblastoma (tumor within the eye) have been effectively treated with cryo-therapy. We are among the first physicians in the nation to apply this type of therapy to tumors of the pleural space.

CSA in the pleura involves the direct application of liquid nitrogen (- 196°C) to the visible tumor bed. The device used to accomplish this is the “True Freeze” platform. We utilize a minimally invasive chest surgery called “Medical Thoracoscopy” which requires a hospitalization. This procedure is performed under sedation along with a local anesthetic. Fluid within the chest, but around the lung is removed first. Then, we utilize the “True Freeze” device to ablate any visible tumor along the chest wall.

Hopefully, this process leads to improved symptoms (i.e. less shortness of breath and less pain). Additionally, we believe it may also help seal the lung back to the chest wall, a process called “pleurodesis”. Performing a pleurodesis is intended to keep the lung fully inflated going forward so that the patient may benefit long-term.

We work very closely with our medical- and radiation-oncology colleagues in the area. Our intention is to utilize CSA as part of a more comprehensive approach to treating a patient’s cancer. This procedure is not intended as a sole therapy. Rather, it is intended to augment the effects of chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy.

For more information, please call our office to arrange for a consultation.

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