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Title: Confocal laser endomicroscopy in diagnosis of solitary and multiple pulmonary nodular infiltrates

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Body: Background. Probe-based confocal laser endomicroscopy (pCLE) is a new method used during bronchoscopy by means of special miniprobe Alveoflex and based on the visualization of intraalveolar structures which possess autofluorescence. Till now the only lung pathology for which specific diagnostic signs are established at pCLE is alveolar proteinosis. Aim: to compare the visual signs of a healthy and pathologically changed lung tissue received at pCLE in patients with infiltrative and local lung nodules with the proved histologic diagnosis. Methods: 36 patients have been undergone multispiral CT to detect the focuses of lung lesions. pCLE has been performed to each patient first in healthy segments, and then in the zone of abnormal findings with photofixing of intraalveolar images and semi-quantitative score. Morphologic diagnosis was ensured by video assisted thoracoscopic lung biopsy. Results: Patients diagnoses have been as follows: sarcoidosis (17), central lung cancer (1), pneumonia (5), usual interstitial pneumonia (1), bronchioloalveolar carcinoma (BAC) (4), other peripheral tumors (8). In all patients with BAC the changes of an intraalveolar image in comparison with healthy segments have been revealed. It has been structural disorganization of collagen and elastic fibres. For other diseases we haven't found any significant difference between healthy and target affected alveoli. Conclusions. pCLE could be used as an additional method of noninvasive diagnostics of BAC in vivo.