

**American College of Radiology  
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®**

**Management of Chylothorax**

**Variant 1: Adult. Chylothorax of any etiology. Initial therapy.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Medical therapy and dietary modification	Usually appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	4
			References	Study Quality											
			9 (38902767)	4											
			15 (38391198)	2											
			13 (31341753)	4											
			22 (35065672)	4											
			10 (35738344)	4											
			23 (38883668)	4											
			21 (34049583)	4											
			17 (29132697)	4											
			18 (29287962)	4											
			19 (32655864)	3											
			20 (32773951)	4											
			14 (33723611)	4											
			11 (25784759)	4											
			12 (28719710)	3											
			16 (24365215)	4											
			8 (23764409)	4											

Thoracic duct embolization	May be appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	5	5	0	0	1	5	3	2	0	1	0
		References		Study Quality											
		26 (38184769)		4											
		23 (38883668)		4											
		18 (29287962)		4											
		25 (32773956)		4											
		20 (32773951)		4											
		10 (35738344)		4											
		24 (29067509)		4											
		17 (29132697)		4											
Surgery	May be appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	4	4	1	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	1
		References		Study Quality											
		29 (39205723)		3											
		23 (38883668)		4											
		18 (29287962)		4											
		20 (32773951)		4											
		10 (35738344)		4											
		28 (38351953)		3											
		17 (29132697)		4											
		27 (26036222)		3											
Pleurodesis	Usually not appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	3	3	0	0	10	0	2	0	0	0	0
		References		Study Quality											
		23 (38883668)		4											
		10 (35738344)		4											
		18 (29287962)		4											
		20 (32773951)		4											

**Variant 2: Adult. Chylothorax refractory to medical and dietary management. Next therapy.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Thoracic duct embolization	Usually appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4

References	Study Quality
26 (38184769)	4
23 (38883668)	4
13 (31341753)	4
20 (32773951)	4
14 (33723611)	4
10 (35738344)	4
24 (29067509)	4
17 (29132697)	4
18 (29287962)	4

Pleurodesis	Usually appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	7	7	0	1	0	1	2	2	5	1	0
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References	Study Quality
23 (38883668)	4
10 (35738344)	4
21 (34049583)	4
18 (29287962)	4
20 (32773951)	4
16 (24365215)	4

Surgery	May be appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	6	6	0	0	1	0	3	6	1	1	0
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References	Study Quality
29 (39205723)	3
9 (38902767)	4
22 (35065672)	4
10 (35738344)	4

28 (38351953)	3
23 (38883668)	4
17 (29132697)	4
18 (29287962)	4
13 (31341753)	4
20 (32773951)	4
14 (33723611)	4

**Variant 3: Adult. Spontaneous chylothorax with concurrent central venous obstruction. Initial therapy.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Thoracic duct embolization	May be appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	6	6	0	0	0	0	4	6	1	0	1
Thoracic central vein recanalization	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	N/A	N/A	5	5	0	0	0	1	7	3	1	0	0
Medical therapy and dietary modification	May be appropriate (Disagreement)	Expert Opinion	N/A	N/A	5	5	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	4	1
Catheter directed mechanical thrombectomy thoracic central vein	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	N/A	N/A	5	5	0	0	0	2	8	1	1	0	0
Intraabdominal lymphatic embolization	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	N/A	N/A	5	5	0	2	0	2	7	0	1	0	0
Surgery	May be appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	4	4	0	0	5	2	4	1	0	0	0
Pleurodesis	May be appropriate	Limited	N/A	N/A	4	4	1	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	0
Surgical thrombectomy thoracic central vein	May be appropriate	Expert Consensus	N/A	N/A	4	4	0	0	2	7	3	0	0	0	0



## **Appendix Key**

A more complete discussion of the items presented below can be found by accessing the supporting documents at the designated hyperlinks.

**Appropriateness Category:** The panel's recommendation for a procedure based on the assessment of the risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the specified clinical scenario.

**SOE:** Strength of Evidence. The assessment of the amount and quality of evidence found in the peer reviewed medical literature for an appropriateness recommendation.

- **References:** The citation number and PMID for the reference(s) associated with the recommendation.
- **Study Quality:** The assessment of the quality of an individual reference based on the number of study quality elements described in the reference.

**RRL:** Relative Radiation Level. A population based assessment of the amount of radiation a typical patient may be exposed to during the specified procedure.

**Rating:** The final rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Median:** The median rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Final tabulations:** A histogram showing the number of panel members who rated the procedure as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Additional supporting documents about the AC methodology and processes can be found at [www.acr.org/ac](http://www.acr.org/ac).