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How to diminish air leaks after lung volume reduction surgery?

Who are the patients?

Patients with altered lung parenchyma presenting persistent air leaks.

What is the problem?

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a lung disease where trapped air limits the functional volume of the lung. Lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS) is often performed to improve outcomes. However, poor healing due to the state of the parenchyma leads to air leaks with prolonged hospitalization.

What is the need?

A device or a biologic agent to limit air leaks after LVRS.

What is the benefit (if problem were solved)?

Reduction of hospital stays and a better quality of life for patients.

Wrap up

While LVRS is still used to improve COPD patients' outcomes, air leaks following it remain a critical post-operative complication. A solution to reduce air leaks occurrence would be useful for the management of those patients.