



Current Trends and Future Challenges in Thoracic Anesthesia

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Message from the Guest Editors

Advances in thoracic surgery have been facilitated by improvements in anaesthetic techniques and perioperative care. This has evolved from knowledge based on evidence-based medicine to **personalised and precision medicine**.

Methods of airway management include **lung isolation and separation** techniques checked by fibroscope or orotracheal tubes or double-lumen tubes with built-in camera permitting to reduce the incidence of intraoperative hypoxaemia and tracheobronchial tree damage.

Lung protective ventilation has become especially important during thoracic surgery, both during one-lung and two-lung ventilation. These techniques have been based on tidal volume adjustments, optimal PEEP, and alveolar recruitment manoeuvres, always limiting airway pressures to acceptable values.

Analgesia methods are based on **locoregional techniques** adapted to the type of surgical approach; today, techniques such as **paravertebral block and erector spinae block** allow a faster and safer recovery. Of course, **chronic pain** is a particularly relevant aspect associated with this surgical speciality.





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