How Chest Tube Clogging Leads to Retained Blood Syndrome (RBS*) Which Can Trigger Post-op Atrial Fibrillation (POAF)

36% of chest tubes clog completely

1 Retained blood left behind by clogged chest tubes clots in the pericardial space.

2 Red blood cell hemolysis and pro-inflammatory recruitment of white blood cells leads to free radical release and the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS)².

3 ROS cause lipid peroxidation, which results in the breakdown of cell membranes, leading to myocardial surface damage, as indicated by increased local biomarkers².

4 This kind of myocardial damage from oxidative stress may trigger post-operative complications like POAF.

*Retained Blood Syndrome (RBS) is the composite of interventions for bloody pleural and pericardial effusions, or take backs for wash out of retained blood around the heart or lungs.

56% higher risk of POAF for patients with clogged chest tubes

PleuraFlow® Active Clearance Technology® (ACT) System has been shown to reduce both RBS interventions from 20% to 11% (-43%) and POAF from 30% to 20% (-33%)¹.

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