Surgery for Valley Fever

Shari L. Meyerson, M.D.
Director, General Thoracic Surgery
University of Arizona
Why would someone need to see a surgeon about Valley Fever?
What is it?

- May look like cancer on a CT scan
- May enlarge if followed over time
- Lights up on a PET scan (just like cancer)
- Real problem especially for doctors outside of this area
Not Responding to Treatment

• May require months of medication before improvement

• Some people will not respond to antifungals
Severe Symptoms

- Fatigue and Weight Loss
Severe Symptoms

• Coughing up blood
Severe Symptoms

• Chest Pain
Severe Symptoms

• Infected Cavity
Severe Symptoms

- Ruptured Cavity
Important Decisions

• What surgical approach should be used?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preop impairment</th>
<th>Thoracotomy (n=38)</th>
<th>VATS (n=20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Care Facility</td>
<td>Home w/ aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preop impairment</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required OT or PT</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required nursing care</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to perform ADL</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent discharge</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important Decisions

• How much lung needs to be removed?
Questions?