**Routine Imaging in Rib Fracture Patients: Incidence and Management of Asymptomatic Delayed-Pleural Space Complications SFH-21-95**  
Scheduled to begin in November 2022

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**BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION**

- Five to ten percent of all patients admitted to trauma centers suffer from rib fractures.
- Routine post-hospitalization appointments are considered standard of care for rib fracture patients; however, the usefulness of routine follow-up imaging in asymptomatic patients is not well reported.
- The primary purpose of this study is to describe the utility in obtaining routine imaging in asymptomatic post hospitalization rib fracture patients at their two week follow up.
- Secondary aims would include identification of current practice patterns associated with asymptomatic delayed pleural space complication (AD-PSC). Delayed PSC will be defined as PSC found at 2-week follow-up appointment that were not present at hospital discharge (or were present to a lesser degree).

**HYPOTHESIS**

We hypothesize that routine imaging does not reveal a significant incidence of AD-PSC across patients with rib fractures and that, if they are discovered, management of these findings vary across institutions. We believe this management to be largely a product of surgical training, experience, and dogma, as opposed to being supported by strong evidence. The findings from this study will allow surgeons to develop a more standardized approach to surveillance of rib fracture patients and serve as a basis for future studies in managing asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic delayed pleural space complications in patients with rib fractures, with or without prior SSRF.

**Development and Validation of a Rib Fracture-Specific Quality of Life Instrument (RIB-QUAL): An International Chest Wall Injury Society Study SFH-22-10.**  
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**BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION**

Quality of life has increasingly become a core metric in the evaluation and management of patients with rib fractures. Previous questionnaires have specifically lacked assessment of rib fracture specific complications such as chest tightness, numbness of the thoracic wall and mechanical impingements at the thoracic inlet and shoulder joint.

The need for a specific and validated assessment instrument for evaluation of quality of life after rib fractures has become increasingly important. The Rib-Qual instrument has been developed by Denver Health working in close collaboration with Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.