DIFFERENT ANAESTHETIC TECHNIQUES FOR THORACOSCOPIC PROCEDURES
Dr. Mohamed Wahba DA (UK) MRCA, CABA
Consultant Anesthetist, Anesthesia department,
King Fahad National Guard, King Abdulaziz medical City, Riyadh – Saudi Arabia

Thoracoscopic surgery presents a unique set of physiological problems for the anaesthesiologist that requires special consideration. This includes physiologic derangements caused by opening the chest (Open pneumothorax), and the frequent need for one lung ventilation.
For many years, general anaesthesia was the standard anaesthesia technique in all-surgical procedures because of no other alternative choices.
As it is well known with major abdominal and thoracic surgeries, the worst and the immediate complications after a general anaesthesia is the pulmonary complications.
With the evolution of better anaesthesia monitoring and medication, the use of awake epidural analgesia with catheter insertion in different levels in the vertebral column was introduced in to several surgical fields.
Epidural anaesthesia has been utilised for thoracic surgical procedures (thoracoscopic thymectomies, bilateral sympathectomies and thoracoscopic lung biopsy) where a few patients with extremely limited physiological and clinical conditions. A general anaesthesia would have increased the potential risk for surgery and made it impossible for the patient to tolerate.