Thoracoscopy/IPC placement patient preparation protocol for junior staff

Theatre lists on Wednesday afternoons

Thoracoscopy patients admitted Tuesday afternoon before, IPC patients at 11 am on the day

Clopidogrel and warfarin stopped 7 days before (sent on admitting letter, responsibility of referring doctor and accepting physician)

If treatment dose tinzaparin required, omit the day before and of the procedure. Can have prophylactic dose

Consider withholding anti-hypertensives 24hrs pre procedure and beta blockers, particularly if patient has resting bradycardia and has no recent history of unstable angina

Mandatory investigations
1. CXR within the last 7 days
2. ECG
3. Bloods – FBC, U and Es, clotting, G and Save
4. Observations – BP, pulse, sats (ABG if sats less than 94%), temperature

Prescribe
1. Tinzaparin 3500 units daily, first dose must be given prior to going to theatre – unless patient requires full dose tinzaparin, see above. Ask for advice
2. Patient should wear anti-embolism stockings
3. Regular and prn analgesia including oramorph

Insert
1. Cannula in hand/forearm, on SAME SIDE of effusion if possible

Fast (NBM)
1. Keep every patient NBM 4 hours prior to procedure- can have light early breakfast. Consider IVT in frail elderly patients.

Consent
1. Consultant or registrar or pleural fellow will do. This is not your responsibility

If in doubt, please ask for advice