**Supplementary File 2.** Different categories of postoperative pulmonary complications (PPCs) in the VATS and in the Thoracotomy groups.

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| *Postoperative pulmonary complications* | All patients  (n=75) | Thoracotomy  (n = 35) | VATS  (n = 40) | p-value |
| At least one PPC | 39 (52) | 24 (69) | 15 (38) | 0.007 |
| Hypoxaemia | 22 (29) | 15 (43) | 7 (18) | 0.016 |
| Severe hypoxaemia | 15 (20) | 9 (26) | 6 (15) | 0.247 |
| Bronchospasm | 5 (6) | 2 (6) | 3 (8) | 0.757 |
| Suspected pulmonary infection | 24 (32) | 14 (40) | 10 (25) | 0.165 |
| Pulmonary infiltrate | 18 (24) | 10 (29) | 8 (20) | 0.386 |
| Atelectasis | 21 (28) | 16 (46) | 5 (13) | 0.001 |
| Pleural effusion | 12 (16) | 8 (23) | 4 (10) | 0.130 |

VATS = Video-assisted thoracoscopy; Percentage data are shown as n (%). The p-value is to be considered between the two surgical groups