Clinical Practice Guideline
Retained Hemothorax

Chest tube inserted

- Persistent opacity on CXR?
  - Yes: Chest CT to measure retained HTX
  - No: Chest tube removal protocol

- Consider second chest tube if CXR taken within 24 hours

- HTX < 300 cc?
  - Yes: Operative candidate?
    - Yes: VATS within 7 days
    - No: Second chest tube Lytics IR/CT guided drainage
  - No: Chest tube removal protocol

Based on work from the Vanderbilt University Department of Surgery