Clinical Practice Guideline
Retained Hemothorax

1. Chest tube inserted
   - Persistent opacity on CXR?
     - Yes: Consider second chest tube if CXR taken within 24 hours
     - No: Chest CT to measure retained HTX

2. Chest CT to measure retained HTX
   - HTX < 300 cc?
     - Yes: Chest tube removal protocol
     - No: Operative candidate?

3. Operative candidate?
   - Yes: VATS within 7 days
   - No: Second chest tube Lytics, IR/CT guided drainage

Based on work from the Vanderbilt University Department of Surgery