

Importance of Video-assisted Thoracic Surgery in the Multimodal Treatment of Patients with Lung Cancer †

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Abstract: Lung cancer is a major public health problem. National and European statistics are not satisfactory regarding the incidence of this disease or mortality from this type of cancer. Multimodal management of bronchopulmonary cancer include early diagnosis (histopathological examination, immunohistochemistry, testing of EGFR, ALK, PDL-1 biomarkers) and initiation of specific treatment (chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, target molecule therapy, surgical treatment). Video-assisted thoracic surgery is an important pillar in the multimodal management of patients with lung cancer, leading in selected cases to increase survival and improve quality of life. Minimally invasive thoracic surgery is a modern approach in the surgical treatment of bronchopulmonary cancer that can benefit a large number of patients with oncological results at least comparable to patients treated with conventional surgery, but also a wide range of benefits such as rapid social reintegration, the possibility of starting adjuvant oncological treatment immediately postoperatively, the lack of post-thoracotomy pain syndrome and finally the aesthetic aspects. Video-assisted thoracic surgery also benefits patients with marginal lung reserve who do not undergo surgical treatment of pulmonary resection by thoracotomy (thoracotomy itself temporarily reduces the respiratory function by about 25%), thus becoming eligible for surgical treatment for curative purposes. In the treatment of bronchopulmonary cancer, the minimally invasive approach can be used for non-anatomical resections with stapler or LASER, as well as for anatomical resections: segmentectomies, lobectomies, bilobectomies, or pneumonectomies.

Keywords: VATS; lung cancer; multimodal treatment.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.