

Division of Thoracic Surgery

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Activities 2007. The clinical activity involved all fields of thoracic oncology including the treatment of early and advanced stage lung cancers, oesophageal tumors, mediastinal and chest wall diseases. A main effort has been made to valorise patients quality of life and satisfaction. Two prospective studies were carried on. The traditional approach to patients used by medical and nurse staff focuses on primarily clinical aspects. Therefore when crucial needs are not met, patients may remain unsatisfied with otherwise perfectly administered care. A logical solution to this problem is to improve the information collection process at admission, in order to develop a more individualized approach.

Our study tested the hypothesis that a standardized multidimensional evaluation of patients at admission may improve the detection of critical areas and facilitate a personalized plan of care, providing systematic management of these problems, and as a final result, improving patient satisfaction with received care. Another study focused on the evaluation of quality of life after pneumonectomy for lung cancer. After pneumonectomy, quality of life (QoL) may result as being impaired in a certain proportion of patients, due to the presence of invalidating symptoms causing severe limitations in daily activities. We carried on a prospective study on patients who have undergone pneumonectomy for oncological reasons, assessing QoL modifications 6 months after surgery and found that pneumonectomy has a major adverse impact on patients' QoL in about 20% of cases.

Preoperative QoL evaluation may represent a reliable tool to identify patients at risk, while adjuvant treatment after pneumonectomy should be tailored to postoperative patients' condition.

Surgery of very extended tumors with main vessels involvement and other demanding procedures are fields of interest and of expertise of the Division together with parenchymal sparing procedures and mini invasive approaches for localised early stage lung or oesophageal cancers.

A multicentric trial with induction chemotherapy, pleuropneumonectomy and radiotherapy for pleural mesothelioma has been developed in collaboration with other Italian Centers.

The Division has completed three years of clinical-research program of lung cancer screening project with low dose CT scan in a high risk population with more than 5000 individuals recruited and about 130 malignancies detected in asymptomatic patients.

The enrolment of a randomised phase II clinical trial with the use of Budesonide versus placebo for pulmonary nodules detected at CT scan in asymptomatic heavy smokers has been completed during 2007.

During 2007 we have developed a program of robotic

Thoracic Surgery

Admissions		Day Hospital	
Admissions	976	Cycles	-
-Surgery Adm	827	-Surgery Cyc	-
-Medical Adm	149	-Medical Cyc	-
Surgical Index	84,73%	Surgical Index	-
Days	6,311	Treatments	-
Alos	6,47	Alos Treat	-
ARW	2,71	ARW	-



surgery in thoracic oncology for localised early stage lung and mediastinal tumors.

The research activity is involved in different translational research studies such as pharmacogenomic analysis, molecular biology studies of lung carcinogenesis, lung cancer angiogenesis and stem cell experimentation. The Division has developed collaboration with several research Institutions and is coordinator of different multicenter clinical trials. It is also devoted to educational activity and scientific meeting organisation.

In 2007 the Thoracic Surgery Division performed about 870 surgical procedures. 25 papers have been published on international journals during 2007.