

Thoracic Oncology

Introduction

The Thoracic Oncology Division cares for patients with primary and metastatic lung cancer, mediastinal tumors and pleural tumors. To help our patients by means of multidisciplinary care, we work closely with co-medicals, thoracic surgeons, radiation oncologists and psychiatrists who have expertise in these areas. We also conduct clinical research to gain a better understanding of these malignant tumors and to develop new and more effective diagnoses and treatments. Residents and trainees from domestic and overseas institutions have joined the Thoracic Oncology Program.

Routine Activities

Our Outpatient Clinic, conducted by staff members, is open from Monday to Friday to examine all new patients referred to the Thoracic Oncology Division and to see returning patients. We also examine patients who are candidates for surgical resection. The staff at the Thoracic

Oncology Division are responsible for reading chest X-rays and chest CTs at the hospital. Bronchoscopy for diagnosis and treatment is carried out from Monday to Thursday afternoon. Fluoroscopic-CT guided needle lung biopsies and fluoroscopic guided needle biopsies are performed on the same day as bronchoscopy. We use approximately 90 beds in conjunction with the Thoracic Surgery Division for patient management.

Case conferences for thoracic surgery, medical oncology and nursing staff are scheduled on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons, respectively. The staff members and residents attend a journal club on Wednesday mornings alongside thoracic surgery staff. We present case reports and research results for subspecialty education at monthly meeting with physicians in private practices.

● K. Kubota ●

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of patients	303	362	407	382	423	445	525	518	553	580	568	589
Stage of disease												
IA	57	85	81	83	90	107	140	128	153	147	123	157
IB	47	48	51	58	60	80	66	67	56	84	89	81
IIA	4	2	2	3	8	4	1	7	7	9	0	6
IIB	18	19	32	22	31	18	27	27	34	36	29	35
IIIA	38	39	28	21	29	39	41	50	46	35	52	60
IIIB	46	73	78	64	63	77	113	105	89	107	119	97
IV	93	96	135	131	142	120	137	134	168	162	156	153
Histology												
Adenocarcinoma	172	218	241	230	274	270	307	283	329	352	328	328
Squamous cell cancer	75	87	93	95	86	96	118	116	121	117	111	120
Small-cell cancer	39	36	50	46	37	42	58	68	48	58	58	71
Large-cell cancer	2	1	6	1	6	10	6	12	11	15	12	18
NSCLC	5	10	12	2	11	20	27	31	32	30	48	40
Others	8	10	5	6	7	7	9	7	12	8	11	12
Treatment												
Chemo → surgery	2	7	2	1	1	2	4	7	6	2	4	7
Surgery	134	147	159	164	184	197	226	223	240	265	230	225
Chemotherapy (CT)	89	111	120	126	136	135	184	202	208	214	218	200
CT+RT	21	16	31	23	29	50	68	58	67	66	72	91
Surgery → chemo	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	16	35
Radiotherapy (RT)	25	29	27	18	24	27	18	13	10	8	12	14
Laser therapy	0	3	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	3	1	0
Palliative care	31	49	66	50	48	33	23	15	19	19	15	17