

Surgical management of bronchopulmonary carcinoid tumors: experience over 8 years and review of the literature

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ABSTRACT

Aims and background. An increased incidence of neuroendocrine tumors in the last decade has been noticed worldwide. Our purpose was to study the characteristics, surgical approaches and outcome in patients with primary bronchopulmonary carcinoid tumors.

Methods. Between 2001 and 2007, bronchopulmonary carcinoid tumors were removed in 11 of a total of 287 patients who underwent surgery for primary lung malignancies in our tertiary referral center.

Results. The patient group consisted of 3 men and 8 women (mean age 52.9 ± 5.2 years, range 19-76 years). At presentation, 10 of 11 patients were symptomatic, with cough, pneumonia, breathlessness and hemoptysis being the most frequent symptoms. Histological findings revealed typical carcinoid in 10 patients and atypical carcinoid in one. The surgical approach included 8 lung resections (6 lobectomies, 1 bilobectomy, 1 segmentectomy), and 3 bronchoplastic tumor removals. In 2008, clinical examination and chest X-ray revealed no recurrence of the carcinoid and no long-term postoperative complications in any patient.

Conclusions. In the light of our study and the review of the literature we conclude that early recognition of primary bronchopulmonary carcinoid tumors followed by adequate surgical removal of the malignancy are essential for complete remission of the disease. **Free full text available at www.tumorionline.it**

Key words: bronchopulmonary carcinoid, lobectomy, bronchoscopy, lung resection.

Acknowledgments: Supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency under contract No. APVV-0449-07, Slovakia, and operating grant VEGA 1/4222/07, Ministry of Education, Slovakia.

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Received March 3, 2009;
accepted June 19, 2009.