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Title: Ki67: Analysis of its expression and prognostic significance in a resected non small cell lung cancer population

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Body: Ki67 is a nuclear protein involved in the cellular proliferation regulation; its expression is associated with cancer and usually has a prognostic significance. AIM.- To study Ki67 expression and its prognostic significance in a resected non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) population, in general and by types. POPULATION AND METHODS.- We included all the patients, with a completely resected NSCLC stage IA_p to stage IIB_p, seen at our hospital from 1998 to 2003. The Ki67 expression was studied by immunohistochemistry techniques. We used the Chi square test to analyze the differences in the Ki67 expression between the squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma and a bivariate analysis to study the prognostic significance of Ki67 expression according to the 5 years survival using the Wilcoxon-Gehan (W-G) test and the log rank (L-R). RESULTS.- We included 146 patients, 91% were men with a median age of 67 yo. 99 were squamous cell carcinoma, 37 adenocarcinoma and 10 large cell carcinoma. The Ki67 expression was positive in 56% cases, negative in 42% and no valid in 2%. The Ki67 positive expression found in the different types of NSCLC is shown in Table 1 and the prognostic significance of Ki67 expression, in NSCLC and its different types, is shown in Table 2.

CONCLUSION.- In the population studied, the Ki67 expression was higher in the squamous cell carcinoma and was associated with a bad prognosis.