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Title: Primary lung sarcomas and sarcomatoid carcinomas – Clinicopathological prognostic factors in operated patients

Prof. Dr Yanina 14132 Slavova yaninaslavova@abv.bg MD ¹, Dr. Dora 14133 Marinova dmusic@abv.bg MD ², Prof. Dr Emil 14134 Astroukov astroug@abv.bg MD ³, Dr. Vladimir 14146 Stanoev vlstanoev@abv.bg MD ³ and Prof. Dr Danail 14147 Petrov danail_petrov@hotmail.com MD ³. ¹ Pathology, University Hospital for Pulmonary Diseases "St. Sofia", Sofia, Bulgaria ; ² Pneumology, University Hospital for Pulmonary Diseases "St. Sofia", Sofia, Bulgaria and ³ Thoracic Surgery, University Hospital for Pulmonary Diseases "St. Sofia", Sofia, Bulgaria .

Body: Aim: To study the prognostic significance of T- and N-status, pTNM stage, cytokeratin, desmin and CD15 expression in operated for primary lung sarcomas (PLSs) or sarcomatoid carcinomas (SCs) patients. Material and Methods: Surgically resected specimen (men n=38; women n=19) from 18 PLSs and 39 SCs patients were studied. The T- and N-status, pTNM stage and immunohistochemical expression of cytokeratin, desmin, CD15 were evaluated. Statistical methods used: chi-square, Kaplan-Meier, Cox regression analysis. Results: Cytokeratin expression is characteristic for SCs – it is found in 38 (97%) cases and in only 7 (39%) cases of PLS (p<0.001). Desmin expression is found only in PLSs – in 3 (17%) cases (p=0.009). CD15 expression is found in 12 (31%) of SCs, but none is found in PLS (p=0.008). The 5 year survival for PLSs was 28% and for SCs–38%.The difference in median survival time between PLS (13.8 months) and SC (8.2 months) was not significant (p=0.43). The median survival time was significantly longer in T1 and T2 status (PLS: T1+2-77 months, T3+4-13, p=0.05; SC: T1+2-91, T3+4-22, p=0.03) and in I and II pTNM status (PLS: I/II-56 months, III/IV-7, p=0.05; SC: I/II-93, III/IV-21, p=0.015). The Cox analysis confirmed the prognostic significance of T status (Hazard ratio[HR]3.2; p=0.005) and pTNM stage (HR 3.03; p=0.003) independent of histological type. N-status, cytokeratin, desmin and CD15 expression have no prognostic significance. Conclusions: Cytokeratin and CD15 expressions are characteristic for SCs while Desmin is found only in PLSs. T1/2 status and pTNM I/II stage may represent favorable prognostic factors in PLSs and SCs.