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Title: The analysis of clinicopathological characteristics and prognosis of malignant pleural mesothelioma

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Body: Objective To investigate the clinicopathological characteristics, methods of diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of malignant pleural mesothelioma. Methods thirty consecutive patients diagnosed malignant pleural mesothelioma from January 2006 to June 2012 in our hospital were studied retrospectively. Clinical manifestation, imaging characteristics, histopathology and manifestation of thoracoscopy were studied. Results The commonest clinical presentation was dyspnea on exertion(26/30) and chest pain(15/30). The commonest radiological manifestation was pleural effusion(28/30), with diffuse pleural thickening and/or pleural mass or nodules. Of thirty cases twenty-five cases were diagnosed through medical thoracoscopy and one case was through surgical thoracoscopy. Thoracoscopy demonstrated that nodules with varying sizes distributed diffusely on diaphragmatic pleura and parietal pleura. Histopathological subtype of mesothelioma include epithelioid(24/30), sarcomatoid(5/30) and biphasic (1/30). Immunohistological examination showed that the positive rate of calretinin, MC, D2-40 was 90%, 86.2% and 82.6% respectively. Fifteen patients received chemotherapy, the main regimen is Pemetrexed and Cisplatin/ Carboplatin. Two patients received pleurectomy, eight patients received best support care. Overall survival time was 1 month~54 months. Those patients whose overall survival time was longer than 24 months received chemotherapy with Pemetrexed and Cisplatin/ Carboplatin or Pleurectomy. Conclusion Clinical manifestation of malignant pleural mesothelioma were nonspecific. Medical thoracoscopy makes the definite diagnosis earlier remarkably. Timely treatment can improve the prognosis.