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Title: Lung cancer in women: A seven years study in Eastern Algeria

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Body: Background The increase in lung cancer incidence in women is probably the most important epidemiological event in the recent years. Aims The aim of this study was to identify the particularities of lung cancer in women in eastern Algeria (Aures region) including age, risk factors, clinical symptoms, comorbidities, histological type, metastatic sites, staging and treatment modalities. Patients and methods: A retrospective and descriptive study from January 2006 to October 2012 including 237 patients admitted in the respiratory department of Batna, Algeria with a histological confirmed lung cancer. Results: The 33 women who have been the subject of our study had a mean age of 61 years vs 62 years for men with a sex-ratio of 6. Our study covers a period of more than seven years, during which the number of cases has oscillated between 2 and 9 cases (in 2009). Risk-factors such as active smoking, passive smoking, exposing jobs and hormonal factors were related. All women were non-smokers, 27% passive smokers, 3% taking chewing tobacco. The relative risk of developing lung cancer among non-smokers was 5 compared to male non-smokers. Clinical signs were dominated by hemoptysis and chest pain in about 60% of cases and cough was reported in 40% patients, unlike men in whom cough was frequently reported (84%), followed by pain and hemoptysis. The most common histological type was squamous cell carcinoma (48%) followed by adenocarcinoma (36%). The main metastatic site was the lung (15%). 72% of patients were classified IIIb or IV. Conclusion Lung cancer in women is different then men, smoking is not the most important risk factor.