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Title: Clinical features and prognosis of multiple primary malignancies in patients with lung cancer

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Body: Background With advance in diagnostic tools and treatment modalities, survival time for cancer patients has been prolonged and the incidence of multiple primary malignancies has increased. The aim of the present study was to analyze the characteristics and prognosis of multiple primary malignancies in patients with lung cancer. Methods We retrospectively evaluated 214 patients with multiple primary malignancies involving lung cancer at the Keimyung University Dongsan Hospital, who had been registered in the Korea Central Cancer Registry from January 2002 to December 2011. Results Of the 2493 patients with lung cancer, 214 (8.6%) patients had at least one other malignancy. The subjects were divided into three groups: group A with synchronous (n=70), group B with lung cancer first (n=26), and group C with other cancer first (n=118). The most common sites of cancers preceding or following lung cancer were stomach in 62 (27.1%) patients, followed by head and neck (n=24), colorectum (n=23), thyroid (n=22), lung (n=18) and cervix (n=10). Median survival was higher in group B (66 months) than group A (10 months) and group C (12 months) (Log-rank test, p<0.001). Multivariate Cox analyses showed that group B presented still higher survival than group A (adjusted hazard ratio [HR], 2.33; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.15-4.70; p=0.018) and group B (adjusted HR, 2.21; 95% CI, 1.11-4.37; p=0.023). Patients with earlier stages and surgical resection also had higher survival. Conclusion The malignancies most frequently accompanying lung cancer were the smoking-related or more frequent cancers in Korea. The patients with lung cancer first showed better prognosis.