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Title: Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery of mediastinal cysts: Report of 13 cases

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Body: Background: Mediastinal cysts are rare anomalies. The purpose of this study was to present our experience with mediastinal cysts who were thoracoscopic treated in our clinic and to discuss our findings along with those from the literature. Methods: We retrospectively investigated 13 patients who were diagnosed and thoracoscopic treated for mediastinal cysts in our clinic between January 2008 and December 2011. Results: Seven patients were female and six patients were male. The average age of the patients was 41.3 ± 20.3 (7-82 years old). The mediastinal cysts comprised five pericardial cysts; four bronchogenic cysts; one hydatid cyst; one benign cystic teratoma; one thymic cyst; and one neurenteric cyst. In a case with ruptured hydatid cyst, we passed to thoracotomy intra-operatively due to presence of advanced adhesion related to inflammation. Postoperative complication and mortality did not occur in any case. The average postoperative hospitalization period was 3.8 days (2-7 days). Conclusion: Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery in mediastinal cysts is a reliable and effective approach with low morbidity and a shorter hospital stay. Keywords: Mediastinal cyst, VATS.