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Title: Endoscopic approach in the treatment of carcinoid tumors

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Body: Aim: Carcinoid tumors were the neuroendocrine tumors of the tracheobronchial tree. Treatment approaches with interventional bronchoscopic methods in carcinoid tumors have been analyzed and discussed. Method: In this study, 20 consecutive carcinoid tumor patient treated in between January 2006 to August 2011 in our Interventional Pulmonology Unit were evaluated. All patients undergone rigid bronchoscopy. In all of the patients after coagulation with diode laser or APC tumor tissue was totally removed with core-out method. Tumors diagnosed as TC after pathological evaluation cryotherapy and/or laser was applied as a complementary procedure. Long follow up and treatment efficacy, recurrence and residue ratios, complications, mortality and morbidity were evaluated. Results: From the 20 cases included into the study, 17 of them were TC and 3 of them were AC. Mean age of the cases were 56 (between 20-73) and 14 of them were female. Six cases, two of them were AC, were operated after bronchoscopic treatment. Rigid bronchoscopy was applied as a mean of 2.3 (1-5) times while fiberoptic bronchoscopy was applied as a mean of 3.2 times. Radial probe EBUS and otofluorescent bronchoscopy were used in bronchoscopic follow up. No mortality due to bronchoscopic treatment was observed. Conclusion: Bronchoscopic treatment is effective and safe in endobronchial carcinoid cases in which tumor base could be totally visualized bronchoscopically and pathological evaluation revealed diagnosis of TC. Efficacy could be reached by the meticulous application of the standard bronchoscopic procedure. Close follow up and treatment of recurrences is essential in the early period.