

# European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2013

**Abstract Number:** 435

**Publication Number:** 4830

**Abstract Group:** 11.1. Lung Cancer

**Keyword 1:** Lung cancer / Oncology **Keyword 2:** Public health **Keyword 3:** Thoracic oncology

**Title:** Patient and doctor delays in the diagnosis and treatment of non-small cell lung cancer in Turkey

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**Body:** OBJECTIVE: Early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer is very important for the prognosis of the patients with lung cancer. This study was undertaken to investigate patient delay and doctor delay in the diagnosis and the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer. In addition, the factors effect of these delays was researched. MATERIAL and METHOD: Between May 2010-May 2011 years, mean age  $61.5 \pm 10.1$ , 1016 patients were enrolled prospectively in this study from the different countries in Turkey. 926 (91.1%) of the patients were male and 90 (8.9%) were female. RESULTS: Patient delay was found  $49.96 \pm 96.96$  days, doctor delay was found  $87.71 \pm 99.59$  days and total delay was found  $131.3 \pm 135.18$  days. Referral delay was found  $61.55 \pm 127.23$  days, diagnostic delay was found  $20.35 \pm 44.46$  days and treatment delay was found  $24.37 \pm 54.97$  days. Patient delay was more frequently in the workers but referral delay was more frequent in patients living in the village ( $p < 0.05$ ). We determined that referral delay, doctor delay and total delay were increased as the number of doctors who were applied by the patients was increased ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, we determined that diagnostic and treatment delay were more frequently in the early stage NSCLC patients ( $p < 0.05$ ). DISCUSSION: In conclusion, people must be educated about lung cancer because patient delay is very longer. To decrease doctor delay, education in the first step is a significant point and to decrease chest specialists delay, multidisipliner management and algorithms must be used regularly.