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Title: Prognostic impact of histology and treatment modalities in malignant mesothelioma

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Body: Introduction: Malignant mesothelioma is a rare and heterogenous malignancy concerning histology and the variety of approaches to its management. Aims: In times of individualized treatments for most tumour entities, this mono-centric study evaluated a retrospective cohort in order to subdivide the disease into prognostic subgroups. Methods: All patients with a malignant mesothelioma between January 2004 and December 2011 were prospectively recorded within our tumour registry and retrospectively evaluated with regard to histology, stage, treatment modalities (surgical resection [RES]: pleurectomy/decortication, extrapleural pneumonectomy; chemotherapy [CTX]; radiotherapy [RTX]) and survival. Results: A total of 170 patients were identified: 127 men (74.7%) and 43 women (25.3%). Mean age was 68.7 yrs. Histological subtyping revealed: epithelial 78.8%, sarcomatoid 8.2% and biphasic 12.9%. Treatment consisted of: RES 96 pts. (56.5%), CTX 128 pts. (75.3%), RTX 26 pts. (15.3%), including multimodal approaches. Best supportive care only was applied in 21 pts. (12.4%). Median overall survival (OS) for all pts. was 16.1 months (95% CI 14.3-18.0 months). OS was positively correlated with certain predictors including epithelial subtype and RES.

Conclusion: This study confirms histologically driven survival differences in mesothelioma reported before. The favourable median OS of our cohort might be influenced by the high rate of RES.