Current Status of the Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery for Primary Lung Cancer

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Abstract : In an analysis of the thoracoscopic and video-assisted surgery for primary lung cancer at our institute and bases on a review of the patient literature, we herein attempt to elucidate clear the present status of video－assisted surgery for lung cancer patients. 〈Methods〉 From 1994 to 2002, the thoracoscopic and video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) has been performed for 140 patients with stage Ⅰ/Ⅱ primary lung cancer. We compared the surgical outcome with 235 patients who underwent a radical resection with conventional thoracotomy. 〈Results〉 The survival rate of the VATS group was significantly better than the survival rate for the conventional thoracotomy. The survial rate for adenocarcinoma was significantly better than for squamous cell carcinoma. 〈Conclusion〉 VATS for stage Ⅰ or stage Ⅱ lung cancer patients was thus found to be an effective therapeutic modality, however, it is necessary to clarify the oncological benefits of VATS for primary lung cancer patients.

Key words : Lung cancer, Thoracoscopic surgery, Minimal invasive surgery