

Postoperative Course in a Patient with Severe Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Who Successfully Underwent Lung Volume Reduction Surgery

Chikara YOSHIMURA¹⁾, Takashige KURAKI³⁾, Hideo TOYOSHIMA¹⁾,
Motokimi SHIRAISHI¹⁾, Kentaro WATANABE¹⁾, Minoru YOSHIDA⁴⁾,
Akinori IWASAKI²⁾ and Takayuki SHIRAKUSA²⁾

1) Department of Respiratory Medicine, Fukuoka University School of Medicine

2) Department of Thoracic, Endocrine and Pediatric Surgery, Fukuoka University School of Medicine

3) 2nd Department of Internal Medicine, Chikushi Hospital, Fukuoka University

4) Murakami Karindo Hospital

Abstract: A 60-year-old male complaining of exertional dyspnea was admitted to Fukuoka University Hospital. The diagnosis was determined to be very severe COPD. Appropriate medication was started, but the patient's respiratory function nevertheless worsened. Since his respiratory function was severe enough to meet the criteria for LVRS based on the findings of a NETT study, LVRS was therefore performed. The FEV_{1.0} markedly improved 2 months after LVRS. Although, the FEV_{1.0} thereafter gradually declined, it still maintained levels over the preoperative ones and the patient's 6-minute walking distance was also longer at 3 years after LVRS than before surgery. LVRS is thus considered to be beneficial to patients with very severe COPD if the candidates for LVRS are very carefully selected.

Key words : Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS), Respiratory function test, Six-minute walk test