

The Current Status of the Diagnosis and Multimodality Therapy for Malignant Mesothelioma

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Abstract : An extrapleural pneumonectomy was performed in 6 patients with malignant mesothelioma in our unit over the past 10 years. The patients ranged from 48–57 years of age. All of them were males and had experienced occupational asbestos exposure. The mean survival time after an extrapleural pneumonectomy was 888 days. Two of the 6 patients had malignant mesothelioma with an excellent reduction by induction therapy using CDDP+Docetaxel, an extrapleural pneumonectomy. One of these patients is doing well with no recurrent of mesothelioma for 2 years after the operation. The other patient died due to a recurrence of mesothelioma at 5 years after operation. We herein discuss the usefulness of intrapleural perfusion hyperthermo-chemotherapy for malignant mesothelioma, and the effectiveness of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) for diagnosing and determining the clinical staging of malignant mesothelioma.

Key words : Malignant mesothelioma, extrapleural pneumonectomy, induction chemoradiation therapy