

DELAY IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER

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Introduction: In 2010 in our center we analyzed delays in diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. The results were a delay of 8.4 weeks from the first symptom to diagnosis and 19.3 weeks from diagnosis to the start of treatment. The objective of this study is to compare the current delays with the delays achieved in 2010 and with the literature.

Materials: We analyzed the last 311 medical records of patients with diagnosis of lung cancer who were referred to our center. The time between the beginning of the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment was measured in weeks.

Results: The 311 patients had a median delay between first symptoms to the diagnostic of 6.5 weeks and a delay from the diagnostic to the start of treatment of 13.6 week. The median symptom-to-treatment delay was 15.6 weeks.

Conclusions: In this study we observed a delay of 15.6 weeks from the first symptom to start treatment. We have decreased delay in diagnosis of 8.4 to 6.5 weeks and also decrease the time from starting treatment of 19.3 to 13.6 weeks. The delay between onset of symptoms and the initiation of treatment in our population is similar to the data reported by CHEST study, published in 2005 by the Finns Group.