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NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER IN REAL-LIFE CLINICAL **PRACTICE**

KRPINA K.¹, Orlović K.¹, Fazlić-Đankić A.², Marunica E.¹, Trkeš V.¹, Baričević D.¹, Mareković I.¹, Boras Z.¹, Jakopović M.1, Samaržija M.1

- ¹ Clinic hospital centre Zagreb , zagreb , Croatia Clinic for respiratory disease Jordanovac
- ² General hospital "dr.Ivo Pedišić", sisak, Croatia Hematology

INTRODUCTION: Lung cancer is the leading cause of death among patients with malignant cancer. About 80% of lung cancer has characteristics of NSCLC, with an average 5-year survival of about 18%. Treatment of lung cancer has become an important issue. But we are witnessing an small but significant survival thanks to newer therapies.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: We performed a retrospective analysis of patients with NSCLC referred to the Department for respiratory infections and tuberculosis, Clinic for respiratory diseases Jordanovac, 2015-2016, and followed until February, 2017. In this period we tracked 100 patients newly diagnosed with lung cancer and who started oncology treatment. Data were collected from medical documentation. General information, diagnostic treatment including

cytological and histopathological investigation, oncology treatment and survival were extractes from documentation and statistically analised.

RESULTS: In total, 100 patients with newly diagnosed, 75 (68.3 %) men and 25 (31.7 %) women, were included. The mean and median age was 65 years (51%); 15 % were aged 45-55 years, and 33% were aged 55-65 years old. Current or former smokers constituted 66 %, with men having smoked more (p<0.001). There was no

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difference in performance status (PS) between genders with PS 0-1 in 45.4%, PS 2 in 25.6% and PS3-4 in 29%. About a half was diagnosed in stages IV (43%) and remaining stage II (13%) and stage III (35%). Adenocarcinoma was most common (58.7%), 35. 2 % had squamous cell carcinoma, while histological or cytologic diagnosis was unavailable in 5.8%. Among these patients surgery was performed in 27.8 % male patients. All patients underwent oncology treatment. Chemotherapy was given to 91 patients (89.2 %) and radiotherapy to 44 (41 %). Second-line chemotherapy was given in 46.2 % and third-line in 23.8 %. Nine patients received fourth-line, four received fifth-line and two recived sixth- line. Among them 60.7% of patients who received chemotherapy survived, and 39.3% died. Till the last follow up median overall survival (OS) was 115 days in patients receiving BSC and 362 days in patients given any therapy.

CONCLUSION: With this analysis we wanted to show the importance of the pathology of lung cancer in every-day clinical pratice in non-oncology department. We believe that with multidisciplinary approach and good compliance we can achieve relevant results.