

Long-term survival in limited-stage small cell lung carcinoma. Experience in Rochester, New York from 1975 to 1981.

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George TK, Fitzgerald D, Brown BS, Chuang C, Asbury RF, Boros L.

Abstract

All patients with limited-stage small cell lung carcinoma (SCLC) diagnosed between January 1975 and 1981 in Rochester, New York, were collected. One hundred one patients were evaluable. By reviewing an entire community's experience with long follow-up, we were able to describe the response rates and survival in a large unselected population and compare them to results from concurrent cooperative group studies. Median survival for the entire group was 51 weeks, with only 18% alive at 130 weeks. There was no evidence for improvement in response or survival during the 6 years of study. Treatment results in the community as a whole were no different from that seen with cooperative group studies. A group who had initial surgery followed by adjuvant therapy had a significantly better survival and more long-term survivors than those not receiving surgery, but rare long-term survivors were seen with all treatment categories. Except for this small surgical subgroup, no other characteristics could be identified which were predictably associated with long-term disease-free survival. The overall poor survival of patient with localized SCLC suggests a need for the development of novel initial approaches to therapy.