Surgical Options for Malignant Mesothelioma: A Single-Center Experience

Seung Ri Kang, M.D., Jin San Bok, M.D., Geun Dong Lee, M.D., Ph.D., Se Hoon Choi, M.D., Ph.D., Hyeong Ryul Kim, M.D., Ph.D., Dong Kwan Kim, M.D., Ph.D., Seung-Il Park, M.D., Ph.D., Yong-Hee Kim, M.D., Ph.D.

Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine

Background: We investigated the surgical outcomes of patients who underwent therapeutic surgery for malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) at a single center. Methods: A retrospective review of 21 patients who underwent therapeutic surgery for MPM from January 2001 to June 2015 was conducted to assess their outcomes. The patients’ characteristics and postoperative course, including complications, mortality, overall survival, and recurrence-free survival, were analyzed. Results: Of the 21 patients who underwent therapeutic surgery, 15 (71.4%) underwent extrapleural pneumonectomy, 2 pleurectomy (9.5%), and 4 excision (19.1%). The median age was 57 years (range, 32–79 years) and 15 were men (71.4%). The mean hospital stay was 16 days (range, 1–63 days). Median survival was 14.3 months. The survival rate was 54.2%, 35.6%, and 21.3% at 1, 3, and 5 years, respectively. In patients’ postoperative course, heart failure was a major complication, occurring in 3 patients (14.3%). The in-hospital mortality rate was 2 of 21 (9.5%) due to a case of severe pneumonia and a case of acute heart failure. Conclusion: A fair 5-year survival rate of 21.3% was observed after surgical treatment. Heart failure was a major complication in our cohort. Various surgical methods can be utilized with MPM, each with its own benefits, taking into consideration the severity of the disease and the comorbidities of the patient. Patients with local recurrence may be candidates for surgical intervention, with possible satisfying results.

Key words: 1. Malignant mesothelioma
2. Pneumonectomy

Introduction

Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is an uncommon type of malignancy with an aggressive nature. It is difficult to diagnose and its outcome is usually fatal, with a median survival of <12 months, a number that has shown little change according to the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results (SEER) database [1]. MPM is known to show little response to chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Many studies have been conducted regarding the appropriate therapeutic modality for this disease, but its proper management is still a matter of debate. However, in patients with localized tumors without distant metastasis and the medical tolerance to undergo general anesthesia and surgery, complete surgical resection can be considered in order to achieve macroscopic cytoreduction, although the exact role of surgery has been a matter for debate [2].

The International Association for the Study of Lung
Table 1. Demographic, perioperative, and survival data for the cohort (n=21)

| Characteristic                                      | Value           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Gender                                              | Male 15, Female 6 |
| Mean age (yr)                                       | 55 (32–79)      |
| Smoking                                             | 16 (76.1)       |
| Exposure to asbestos                                | 6 (28.6)        |
| Mean forced expiratory volume in 1 second (L)       | 70.4 (41–100)   |
| Mean diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (ml/min/mm Hg) | 70.8 (42–116)   |
| Chief complaint                                     | Pleuritic pain 8 (38.1), Dyspnea 7 (33.3), Cough 2 (19.1) |
| Comorbidities (Charlon comorbidity index)           | Mean (range) 1.29 (0–3), Median 1 |
| Side                                                | Right 15 (71), Left 6 (29) |
| Neoadjuvant treatment                               | Chemotherapy 1 (4.8), Radiotherapy 1 (4.8) |
| Types of surgical procedures                        | Extrapleural pneumonectomy 15 (71.4), Pleurectomy 2 (9.5), Chest wall excision 4 (19.1) |
| Stage                                               | II 5 (23.8), III 15 (71.4), IV 1 (4.8) |
| Lymph node metastasis                               | N0 12 (57.1), N1 2 (9.5), N2 5 (23.8), Nx 2 (9.5) |
| Histologic type                                     | Epithelioid 13 (61.9), Sarcomatoid 2 (9.5), Biphasic 1 (4.8), Others 5 (23.8) |
| Adjuvant therapy                                    | Chemotherapy 5 (23.8), Radiotherapy 7 (33.8), Chemotherapy and radiotherapy 1 (4.8), None 8 (42.9) |

Values are presented as number, mean (range), or number (%).

Table 2. Postoperative data for the cohort

| Variable                        | Value           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mean hospital stay (day)        | 16 (1–63)       |
| Median follow-up (mo)           | 5.33 (0–75.3)   |
| Postoperative complication      | 7/21 (33.3)     |
| Heart failure                   | 3/21 (14.3)     |
| Pneumonia                       | 1/21 (4.8)      |
| Vocal cord palsy                | 2/21 (9.5)      |
| Wound complication              | 1/21 (4.8)      |
| In-hospital mortality           | 2/21 (9.5)      |
| Cause of death                  | Heart failure 1/21 (4.8), Pneumonia 1/21 (4.8) |
| 90-day mortality                | 2/21 (9.5)      |
| Cause of death                  | Heart failure 1/21 (4.8), Recurrence 1/21 (4.8) |
| Survival rate (%)               | 1 yr 54.2, 3 yr 35.6, 5 yr 21.3 |
| Median survival duration (mo)   | 14.3 (0–75.3)   |
| Cause of death                  | Recurrence 8 (42.9), Acute renal failure 1 (4.8), Acute respiratory distress syndrome 1 (4.8), Heart failure 2 (4.8), Pneumonia 1 (4.8), Sepsis (empyema) 1 (4.8) |

Values are presented as mean (range), number (%), or %.

Cancer currently defines the procedures for gross tumor reduction as extrapleural pneumonectomy (EPP), pleurectomy/decortication (P/D), and extended pleurectomy/decortication (e-P/D) [3]. EPP, which is the more aggressive, lung-sacrificing procedure, entails surgical removal of the ipsilateral lung, diaphragm, and the pericardium. In contrast, P/D spares the lung of the MPM-affected side, with removal of all gross tumors and pleura. The P/D procedure spares the pericardium and diaphragm, while the e-P/D procedure entails resection of the ipsilateral pericardium and diaphragm.

The Mesothelioma and Radical Surgery (MARS) trial in 2011 stated that EPP, in the context of trimodal therapy, was of no benefit and was harmful enough that further study was not warranted [4]. However, that study has been criticized for the factors it analyzed, its design, and the high rate of mortality fol-
Surgical Options for Malignant Mesothelioma

Fig. 1. (A) Overall survival of 21 patients. The overall median survival was 14.3 months. (B) Overall survival excluding 90-day mortality. The overall median survival was 29.0 months.

Following EPP, and to some, has been regarded as a study that can "lead research regarding MPM into a wrong direction" [5,6]. To support this, most current studies in the literature support surgery as part of multimodal therapy [7-10]. In the SEER analysis of 13,734 MPM patients between 1973 and 2009, surgery was a predictive factor for longer survival [11].

In this context, we sought to analyze our single-institution experience with the surgical treatment of MPM by assessing patients’ preoperative characteristics and their postoperative course, including complications, mortality, overall survival, and recurrence-free survival.

Methods

This was a retrospective review of 21 patients who underwent surgical treatment for MPM at a single institution from January 2001 to June 2015. Patients’ preoperative profiles and postoperative data were reviewed from medical records. Patients who presented with possible MPM were initially evaluated to obtain a histologic confirmation via thoracoscopic or needle biopsy. Staging following tissue confirmation was performed using computed tomography (CT), positron emission tomography scans to investigate possible metastasis, and magnetic resonance imaging. When the patient was deemed fit for surgical resection, preoperative echocardiography and a pulmonary function test including the diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide were evaluated. Detailed demographics and preoperative data are shown in Table 1. The preoperative risk factors were classified according to the Charlson comorbidity index. The type of surgery was defined as EPP; pleurectomy if the whole parietal pleura, diaphragm, and pericardium were excised; and chest wall excision if only the affected portion of the chest wall was resected. The patient’s final pathology and staging were classified postoperatively. Local recurrence was defined as metastasis in the ipsilateral hemithorax. All patients were staged as according to the seventh American Joint Committee on Cancer TNM staging system. The cohort’s postoperative complications, mortality, overall survival, and recurrence rate were analyzed.

| Table 3. Recurrence-free survival |
|----------------------------------|
| Variable                         | Value |
| Recurrence pattern               |       |
| Local (ipsilateral mediastinal lymph node, chest wall) | 8 (38.6) |
| Distant (liver, bone, peritoneum) | 2 (9.5) |
| Mixed (local+distant)            | 2 (9.5) |
| Recurrence-free survival (%)     |       |
| 1 yr                             | 41.8  |
| 3 yr                             | 33.4  |
| 5 yr                             | 11.1  |
| Median recurrence-free survival for different types of surgery (mo) |       |
| Extrapleural pneumonectomy       | 7.5    |
| Pleurectomy                      | 2.5    |
| Excision                         | 38.3   |
| Median recurrence-free survival  | 11.8   |

Values are presented as number (%), %, or median.
**Results**

Patients’ postoperative course, including complications, mortality, survival rate, and cause of death, is shown in Table 2. The most common histologic type was epithelioid (13 of 21, 61.8%), followed by sarcomatoid (2 of 21, 9.5%), biphasic (1 of 21, 4.8%), undifferentiated (1 of 21, 4.8%), and desmoplastic (1 of 21, 4.8%), and 5 cases were unclassified. The median hospital stay was 12 days (range, 1–63 days). The overall incidence of postoperative complications was 33.3%. Heart failure was the most common complication (n=3, 14.3%), followed by vocal cord palsy (n=2, 9.5%), pneumonia (n=1, 4.8%), and wound complications (n=1, 4.8%). In-hospital mortality occurred in 2 patients, one patient due to sudden cardiac arrest on postoperative day 0, owing to acute right ventricular failure, and the other due to postoperative bacterial pneumonia. Two patients died within 90 days after surgery: 1 due to aggravated heart failure, and 1 due to extensive systemic metastasis. The survival rate at 1 year, 3 years, and 5 years was 54.2%, 35.6%, and 21.3%, respectively, with a median survival duration of 14.3 months (range, 0–75.3 months) (Fig. 1A). Overall, tumor recurrence was the most common cause of death (8 of 21), followed by heart failure (2 of 21) and severe acute renal failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, pneumonia, and sepsis empyema, all with 1 occurrence each.

The median recurrence-free survival was 11.8 months in the total cohort, as shown in Table 3. The 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year recurrence-free survival rate was 41.8%, 33.4%, and 11.1%, retrospectively. In the 12 cases of recurrence, 8 patients showed local recurrence (defined as metastasis to the ipsilateral hemithorax) in the lung, rib, peritoneum, pleura, thoracic spine, and intrathoracic lymph node; 2 patients showed distant metastasis in the liver and retroperitoneum; and 2 patients showed both local and distant metastasis.

The patients who underwent pleurectomy showed the highest rate of survival at 43.6%, followed by the excision group at 34.9% and the EPP group at 17.5%, although this pattern was statistically non-significant (p=0.595) (Fig. 2A). All but 3 patients (19 of 22) had a complete resection with negative resection margins, while the remaining 3 patients showed R1 resection and had a worse outcome (Fig. 2B).

One patient of note is #15 in Table 4. A 53-year old man without any other medical history other than diabetes mellitus was initially diagnosed with MPM. Neoadjuvant radiotherapy was done (60 Gy in 30 fractions) and the patient underwent pleurectomy with chest wall resection (8th–11th rib) and reconstruction, as well as wedge resection of the affected right lower lobe of the lung. All resection margins were negative for malignancy. However, 3 months later, a CT scan revealed an enlargement of the right costophrenic angle lymph node. He again underwent excision of the mass, which was consistent with metastasis of MPM. He then underwent 9 cycles of cisplatin and pemetrexed. After 7 years, he is still receiving outpatient follow-up without any symptoms or signs of recurrence.
### Table 4. Individual profiles of the entire cohort

| No. | Age (yr) | Sex | Operation type | Side | Comorbidity (Charlson index) | Resection margin | Histology | Staging | Stage | Neoadjuvant therapy | Adjuvant therapy | Regimen | Survival time (mo) | Recurrence site | Recurrence-free survival (mo) | Cause of death |
|-----|----------|-----|----------------|------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1   | 57       | M   | Lobectomy, RLL, partial resection of 8th-9th ribs | Rt.  | 1                           | RD               | Undifferentiated | T3NO   | 3     | -                 | -              |         | 1.8               | -              | 1.8                       | Pneumonia      |
| 2   | 49       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 0                           | RD               | Sarcomatoid      | T2N2   | 2     | -                 | RTx            | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 2.8           | -             | 26.8                  | Heart failure  |
| 3   | 47       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 0                           | RD               | NA               | T2N0   | 2     | CTx, RTx          | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 9    | Liver             | 29.0           | Recurrence    |
| 4   | 45       | F   | EPP             | Rt.  | 0                           | RD               | NA               | T3N0   | 3     | CTx, RTx          | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 10.9 | Chest wall, liver | 2.8            | Recurrence    |
| 5   | 59       | M   | EPP             | Lt.  | 1                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T2N2   | 2     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 39.7           | T12           | 4.0                    | Recurrence    |
| 6   | 65       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 2                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N0   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 0.1            | -             | 1.9                    | Heart failure  |
| 7   | 57       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 0                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N2   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 4              | -             | 0.5                    | ARDS          |
| 8   | 57       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 3                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N3   | 3     | CTx, RTx          | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 20   | Retroperitoneal LN | 75.3           | Recurrence    |
| 9   | 52       | M   | EPP             | Lt.  | 1                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T2N2   | 3     | CTx, RTx          | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 7.7  | Liver, rib        | 3.0            | ARF           |
| 10  | 61       | F   | EPP             | Lt.  | 2                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T2N1   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 9.2            | -             | 36.4                   | Sepsis         |
| 11  | 53       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 1                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N0   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 51.2           | RTx, rib       | 7.3                    | Recurrence    |
| 12  | 79       | M   | Chest wall resection | Rt.  | 3                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N1   | 3     | -                 | -              | -                  | 14.3           | Lung          | 5.7                    | Recurrence    |
| 13  | 63       | M   | EPP             | Lt.  | 2                           | RD               | Desmoplastic     | T2N0   | 2     | -                 | CTx, pemetrexed  | -                  | 2.3            | Chest wall | 9.2                    | Recurrence    |
| 14  | 64       | M   | Pleurectomy      | Rt.  | 2                           | RD               | Biphasic         | T3Nx   | 3     | -                 | CTx, pemetrexed  | -                  | 29             | Pleura       | 28.4                   | Recurrence    |
| 15  | 53       | M   | Pleurectomy with chest wall resection | Rt.  | 2                           | RD               | Sarcomatoid      | T4Nx   | 4     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 66.7           | Cardiopulmonary LN | 2.7                    | -             |
| 16  | 61       | F   | EPP             | Lt.  | 3                           | RD               | NA               | T2N2   | 2     | -                 | -              | CTx, pemetrexed | 75.3           | -             | 7.9                    | -             |
| 17  | 39       | F   | EPP             | Rt.  | 0                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N2   | 3     | CTx, RTx          | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 19   | Peritoneum        | 11.8           | -            |
| 18  | 60       | M   | EPP             | Rt.  | 2                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N0   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 62.5           | Chest wall | 5.4                    | -             |
| 19  | 32       | F   | EPP             | Rt.  | 0                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T2N2   | 3     | CTx, RTx          | Cisplatin, pemetrexed | 3.8  | -                 | 4.9            | -             |
| 20  | 50       | M   | Chest wall resection | Rt.  | 1                           | R1               | Epithelial       | T3N0   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 28.4           | -             | 3.8                    | -             |
| 21  | 53       | F   | Chest wall resection | Lt.  | 1                           | RD               | Epithelial       | T3N0   | 3     | -                 | RTx            | -                  | 4.9            | -             | 0.1                    | -             |

M, male; F, female; RLL, right lower lobe; Rt., right; Lt., left; EPP, extrapleural pneumonectomy; NA, unclassified; CTx, chemotherapy; RTx, radiotherapy; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; LN, lymph node; ARF, acute renal failure.
Discussion

Mesothelioma is a rare type of malignancy that is known for its aggressiveness, with a median survival of approximately 1 year. [1] The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) 2017 clinical practice guidelines for MPM present general steps that clinicians must take when treating patients with MPM. Treatment options may include radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgery, and select patients (clinical stages I-II, resectable tumor, and medical tolerance to undergo therapy) are candidates for multimodal therapy [12].

However, the role of surgery itself has always been a matter for debate. A dataset study from 1990 to 2004 found that patients who underwent surgery showed a median overall survival of 11 months, as compared to 7 months in patients who did not undergo surgery (p < 0.0001) [13]. In this light, most of the current literature incorporates surgery as part of a multimodal therapeutic plan for MPM.

The surgical procedure can be either EPP, which is defined as en bloc resection of the pleura, lung, ipsilateral diaphragm, and often the pericardium, or P/D, which entails complete removal of the pleura, all gross tumor, and/or en bloc resection of the pericardium and/or diaphragm with reconstruction. Due to the lack of surgical margins and diffuse growth pattern, complete resection is microscopically impossible. Thus, the goal of any surgical procedure for MPM is complete gross cytoreduction of the tumor, or in other words, a macroscopic complete resection. Thus, when multiple site involvement is suspected, surgery should not be considered.

The 2017 NCCN guidelines suggest that both EPP and P/D are feasible surgical options, but which surgical method is oncologically better remains unknown. Two meta-analyses reported that P/D, when compared to EPP, was associated with a greater than 50% reduction in postoperative morbidity, a 2.5-fold lower short-term mortality rate, and an equivalent, if not greater, median overall survival [14,15]. Support regarding P/D as the surgical method of choice over EPP is increasing, and the MARS-II trial comparing P/D to the best medical therapy is currently underway [16]. However, it must be pointed out that selection bias may play a part in the choice between EPP and P/D. As Flores et al. [17] pointed out in a 2008 study of 663 patients, many surgeons do not consider EPP and P/D to be exchangeable in terms of indications, and cases with bulky parenchymal involvement or involvement of the fissures may only be dealt with through EPP. It must also be pointed out that patients undergoing EPP have a higher tumor staging preoperatively than those undergoing P/D, which may affect postoperative mortality in terms of tumor recurrence. Moreover, patient comorbidities should also be considered, as those with a lower functional status or any other major underlying disease are probably unfit to undergo EPP.

Clear guidelines regarding the surgical procedure of choice according to tumor staging and patient characteristics would be helpful for choosing the proper treatment.

In our series, except for patient #1, all in-hospital mortality and morbidity occurred in patients who underwent EPP, which support the general consensus that EPP is associated with higher preoperative and postoperative mortality and morbidity. Our study could not provide sufficient data as to which operative method is associated with the most oncologic benefits due to the insufficient number of patients. However, patient #15, as mentioned, underwent P/D as well as chest wall resection and another metastatectomy in the following years, and is still receiving follow-up with any sign of recurrence. This implies that P/D can also achieve complete resection of tumors, although the aggressiveness of MPM limits the percentages.

There is limited evidence regarding the best treatment option for cases of recurrent MPM, especially in terms of surgical intervention [18]. As shown by patient #15, we consider surgery to be a feasible option in cases of recurrence of a single tumor in the ipsilateral chest cavity, which is a local recurrence that can be excised. We plan to do so in the future for further cytoreduction of MPM, although its efficacy must be demonstrated in a study with a larger group of cases of recurrent MPM.

A surgical lesson we recognized was that the inevitable sacrifice of the phrenic nerve must prompt the surgeon to preserve the integrity of the diaphragm, as elevation of the diaphragm and the underlying liver deterred a patient from undergoing postoperative adjuvant radiotherapy. We usually ‘peeled’ the outer layer of the diaphragm when pre-
Serving the diaphragm. However, the diaphragm lost integrity in terms of its function as time passed, and showed radiological signs of diaphragm elevation. Thus, when diaphragmatic involvement is suspected, total excision of the diaphragm and reconstruction with a non-native material may be worth considering in light of possible future plans for radiotherapy and postoperative respiratory function.

In conclusion, although our data did not yield conclusive outcomes due to the small number of cases, we have illustrated the various forms of surgical management used in various cases of MPM. A further study is warranted with a larger patient cohort, which may lead to clear surgical guidelines regarding MPM.

Conflict of interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by a Grant of the Samsung Vein Clinic Network (Daejeon, Anyang, Cheongju, Cheonan; Fund no. KTCS04-102).

References

1. Taioli E, Wolf AS, Camacho-Rivera M, et al. Determinants of survival in malignant pleural mesothelioma: a Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) study of 14,228 patients. PLoS One 2015;10:e0145039.
2. Burt BM, Cameron RB, MoUberg NM, et al. Malignant pleural mesothelioma and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Database: an analysis of surgical morbidity and mortality. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2014;148:30-5.
3. Rice D, Rusch V, Pass H, et al. Recommendations for uniform definitions of surgical techniques for malignant pleural mesothelioma: a consensus report of the international association for the study of Lung Cancer International Staging Committee and the International Mesothelioma Interest Group. J Thorac Oncol 2011;6:1304-12.
4. Treasure T, Lang-Lazdunski L, Waller D, et al. Extra-pleural pneumonectomy versus no extra-pleural pneumonectomy for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma: clinical outcomes of the Mesothelioma and Radical Surgery (MARS) randomised feasibility study. Lancet Oncol 2011;12:763-72.
5. Weder W, Stahel RA, Baas P, et al. The MARS feasibility trial: conclusions not supported by data. Lancet Oncol 2011;12:1093-4.
6. Bliss JM, Coombes G, Darlison L, et al. The MARS feasibility trial: conclusions not supported by data: authors’ reply. Lancet Oncol 2011;12:1094-5.
7. Wolf AS, Richards WG, Tilleman TR, et al. Characteristics of malignant pleural mesothelioma in women. Ann Thorac Surg 2010;90:949-56.
8. Sugarbaker DJ, Wolf AS. Surgery for malignant pleural mesothelioma. Expert Rev Respir Med 2010;4:363-72.
9. Taioli E, Wolf AS, Camacho-Rivera M, Flores RM. Women with malignant pleural mesothelioma have a threefold better survival rate than men. Ann Thorac Surg 2014;98:1020-4.
10. Sugarbaker DJ, Wolf AS, Chirieac LR, et al. Clinical and pathological features of three-year survivors of malignant pleural mesothelioma following extrapleural pneumonectomy. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2011;40:298-303.
11. Taioli E, Wolf AS, Moline JM, Camacho-Rivera M, Flores RM. Frequency of surgery in black patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma. Dis Markers 2015;2015:282145.
12. De Perrot M, Feld R, Cho BC, et al. Trimodality therapy with induction chemotherapy followed by extrapleural pneumonectomy and adjuvant high-dose hemithoracic radiation for malignant pleural mesothelioma. J Clin Oncol 2009;27:1413-8.
13. Flores RM, Riedel E, Donington JS, et al. Frequency of use and predictors of cancer-directed surgery in the management of malignant pleural mesothelioma in a community-based (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results [SEER]) population. J Thorac Oncol 2010;5:1649-54.
14. Taioli E, Wolf AS, Flores RM. Meta-analysis of survival after pleurectomy decortication versus extrapleural pneumonectomy in mesothelioma. Ann Thorac Surg 2015;99:472-80.
15. Cao C, Tian D, Park J, Allan J, Pataky KA, Yan TD. A systematic review and meta-analysis of surgical treatments for malignant pleural mesothelioma. Lung Cancer 2014;83:240-5.
16. Lim E. MARS 2: a feasibility study comparing (extended) pneumonectomy decortication versus no pneumonectomy decortication in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma (MARS2) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2015 [cited 2017 Sep 1]. Available from: http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT02040272.
17. Flores RM, Pass HI, Seshan VE, et al. Extrapleural pneumonectomy versus pleurectomy/decortication in the surgical management of malignant pleural mesothelioma: results in 663 patients. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2008;135:620-6.
18. Politi L, Borzellino G. Second surgery for recurrence of malignant pleural mesothelioma after extrapleural pneumonectomy. Ann Thorac Surg 2010;89:207-10.