

Thoracic Surgery Unit, University Hospital of Siena

Presentation

The Thoracic Surgery in Siena was found in 1975 by a little group of surgeons who were interested in lung and heart physiology supported by the local chest physicians and cardiologists. In 1998 the Cardiac Surgery Program and the General Thoracic Surgery Program were divided in two different Operative Unit inside the some department. Prof. Giuseppe Gotti, at that time associate professor, become the consultant in chef of the new Thoracic Surgery Unit. In 1998 was found the aggregate unit of Thoracic Surgery in Arezzo (San Donato Hopsital) directed by Prof Gotti. In 1999 was found the Oesophageal Surgery Program which have a special unit. The prevalent surgical activity of our Unit is the thoracic oncology (oesophageal, pulmonary and of mediastinum).

Surgical activity

From January 1998 to December 2005 978 major lung resections have been performed for NSCLC. Many are also the surgical procedure for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma (and today the thermo-chemotherapy, mediastinal diseases, oesophageal tumours and of the gastro-oesophageal junction.

Research and teaching

Our Thoracic Surgery Unit provide a wide number of open, mini-invasive and totally endoscopic surgical procedure, for this reason we manage the Postgraduate Course of General Thoracic Surgery.

At the moment we are caring out many researches in the field of thoracic oncology:

- The study of the expression of the vascular growth factors (VEGF) and the metalloproteinase's (MMP) as prognostic factors and indicators of distant metastases.
- The neo-adjuvant treatment before surgery in patients affected by locally advanced lung tumours
- The thermo-chemotherapy in patients affected by malignant pleural mesothelioma, pleural recurrence after resection of thymic tumours and pleural carcinomatosis from extra-thoracic tumours.
- The study of lung function at long term follow up in patients who underwent major lung resections.

The thoracic surgical staff and residents participate regularly in departmental conferences and meetings. Particularly every Wednesday takes place the multidisciplinary oncological meeting (GOM) in which all oncological cases are analyzed and discussed.