

Robotic thoracic surgery: S1+2 segmentectomy of the left upper lobe: advantage of robotic assisted thoracic surgery

Hailei Du, Hecheng Li

Department of Thoracic Surgery, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, School of Medicine, Shanghai 200025, China

Correspondence to: Professor Hecheng Li. Department of Thoracic Surgery, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, School of Medicine, 197 Ruijin 2nd Road, Shanghai 200025, China. Email: lihecheng2000@hotmail.com.

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We are grateful for the reviewers' comments on our manuscript entitled "Robotic thoracic surgery: S1+2 segmentectomy of the left upper lobe" (1). An advantage of robotic assisted thoracic surgery (RATS) is that the robotic arms are flexible and allow the surgeon to move instruments freely inside the chest cavity as needed without geometric limitations. Compared with single-incision video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS), the flexibility is one of the primary advantages of robotic surgery. Although the literature revealed that RATS does not seem to offer any advantages over VATS with regards to complications, postoperative pain, hospital stay, and oncological outcome for early-stage lung cancer (2,3), the benefit of RATS is that the surgeon feels more comfortable and confident when performing RATS.

Prospective multicenter randomized trials are needed to determine the most appropriate instances to utilize RATS. To improve the quality of the robotic surgical training for thoracic surgeons, more advanced thoracic surgical procedure modules must be available in the near future. As the cost goes down, RATS is expected to be used widely in the future.

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Footnote

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