Focus on specific disease-part 2: the European Society of Thoracic Surgery chest wall database

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Background: Data collection has gained a great importance in numerous areas in the last years and also in the medical field. Collecting data is the key to knowledge and consequently improving data quality is fundamental, as the results of the data analysis can have a large impact on the clinical practice.

Methods: Collected data can be employed to assess the performance of surgeons or institutions and to implement hospital's performance and productivity. The chest wall database is one of the satellites composing the European Society of Thoracic Surgery (ESTS) database and includes data on risk factors, surgical techniques, processes of care and outcomes related to chest wall pathologies. The participation to the registry is free and voluntary for the ESTS members. The ESTS chest wall database includes data on risk factors, surgical techniques, processes of care and outcomes related to chest wall pathologies. The collected data are designed for quality control and performance audit. Acquired data are anonymous, independently accessed and encrypted on a Dendrite platform, which provides data security and regular backups. The registry is managed by an external company (KData Clinicak Srl), which works together with the database committee in revising and updating periodically the database.

Results: The ESTS chest wall database is structured in four main sections: preoperative, intraoperative, postoperative and follow up. For each procedure registered in the database are collected a number of different variables regarding the patients' characteristics, the surgical technique, the postoperative course until the discharge and also follow up data. Correction of pectus excavatum is the most common procedures registered in 2017 (392 patients, 67% of all data), followed by pectus bar removal (159 patients, 27% of all procedures).

Conclusions: The ESTS chest wall database is an ambitious European project, which aims to standardize all chest wall procedures in all their aspects.

Keywords: European Society of Thoracic Surgery database (ESTS database); ESTS chest wall; big data

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Introduction

Data collection has gained a great importance in numerous areas in the last years and also in the medical field. Collecting data is the key to knowledge and consequently improving data quality is fundamental, as the results of the data analysis can have a large impact on the clinical practice (1,2). Collected data can be employed to assess the performance of surgeons or institutions and to implement hospital's performance and productivity.

The European Society of Thoracic Surgery (ESTS) database is a multi-institutional and international registry, where the data are collected using a protected online platform (https://ests.kdataclinical.it) (3). To date, up to 15,000 new cases are registered in the database annually from 24 different countries, in details from 170 European and 15 non-European thoracic surgery units (4).

The chest wall database is one of the satellites composing the ESTS database and it collects data about the whole spectrum of chest wall diseases, like tumors, traumas or malformations (*Table 1*).

Methods

Aim and characteristics of the chest wall database

The ESTS chest wall database includes data on risk factors, surgical techniques, processes of care and outcomes related to chest wall pathologies. These data are designed for quality control and performance audit. The registry comprehends the whole spectrum of the chest wall diseases in the form of a detailed database with the aim to find out the best practice at European (and non-European) level in order to develop guidelines and establish a standard to improve the outcome. A composite performance score (CPS) was created to assess the outcomes in different aspects of surgical practice of the participating thoracic surgery units (5,6). Monitoring of implants durability, possible complications and bad reactions in patients undergoing correction of chest wall deformities are highlights for the data collection and open some research possibilities. Data on patients' surveillance after a chest wall procedure are also collected in the registry.

In the last 20 years, chest wall surgery has undergone a considerable growth in technique and material used for reconstruction (7). In fact, many techniques and materials are currently used from different thoracic surgeons in different areas, as so far there are no guidelines for the management of this kind of diseases. The chest wall

Table 1 Spectrum of diseases managed in the ESTS chest wall database

Congenital chest wall defects

Pectus excavatum (Nuss and Ravitch procedure)

Pectus carinatum (Abramson and modified Ravitch procedure)

Pectus arcuatum

Mixed defects

Chest wall tumors

Primary tumors of ribs/sternum

Metastatic disease

Traumas

Rib/Sternal resection and reconstructions

ESTS, European Society of Thoracic Surgery.

database is determined to fulfill this purpose.

Another main objective of the database is to endorse the cooperation between international societies. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Surgery Database (STS GTSD) and the ESTS Registry Task Force already have a cooperation since 2012 (8). The two societies database task forces meet annually to plan future research projects. In the last years were published some studies from the joint cooperation of the two registries (4), after the data harmonization and standardization between the databases.

Participation

The participation to the registry is free and voluntary for the ESTS members. At least one staff member should retain an ESTS membership and the participants have to request and obtain a personal login account completing the specific application form, which can be downloaded from the ESTS homepage (http://www.ests.org/collaboration/database_registration_form.aspx).

Every single contributor/unit has several benefits besides the obvious advantages for the medical community. In fact, every thoracic surgery unit participating to the database can access its own data collected in a standardized ESTS-endorsed dataset, which can be downloaded and used for internal analysis, statistics or research. Furthermore, the participants will receive a feedback regarding the quality of their data and performance compared to the international benchmarks. Every participating thoracic surgery unit can access the ESTS certification program (http://www.ests.org/

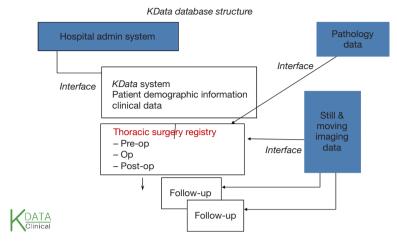


Figure 1 Data collected in the chest wall database (source from the Silver Book 2016).

collaboration/ests_quality_certification_programme.aspx) and can submit a research project to the ESTS database task force to access data derived from the entire database (http://www.ests.org/collaboration/ests_database_rules_for_publications_and_presentations.aspx).

Data collection

Acquired data are anonymous, independently accessed and encrypted on a Dendrite platform, which provides data security and regular backups. The registry is managed by an external company (KData Clinicak Srl), which works together with the Database Committee in revising and updating periodically the database. Single institutions and national registries can upload data in the database (9,10). Every year the ESTS Registry Annual Report (Silver Book) is published on the ESTS homepage (http://www.ests.org/collaboration/database_reports.aspx) including all data collected during the year (Figure 1).

Results

The ESTS chest wall database is structured in four main sections: preoperative, intraoperative, postoperative and follow up. For each procedure registered in the database are collected a number of different variables regarding the patients' characteristics, the surgical technique, the postoperative course until the discharge and also follow up data (*Tables 2,3*). *Figure 2* shows the number of collected procedures for chest wall deformities until November 2017. In 2016, 2,534 procedures in total were registered in the

database according to the silver book and the vast majority of these procedures consisted of surgery for correction of chest wall deformities. Correction of pectus excavatum is the most common procedures registered in 2017 (392 patients, 67% of all data), followed by pectus bar removal (159 patients, 27% of all procedures). Figure 3 shows the correlation between age and gender. Males are generally more affected than females and most patients undergo the procedure in a young age (<40). Figure 4 shows the data regarding the materials used for reconstruction in patients undergoing surgery for pectus excavatum. Figure 5 describes the completeness of the collected data. The data have been collected from 32 hospitals from many European and non-European countries, in particular Brazil. In the supplementary is described in details the core dataset of the chest wall database in all its sections.

Conclusions

The ESTS chest wall database is an ambitious European project, which aims to standardize all chest wall procedures in all their aspects, starting from the preoperative preparation, continuing with the surgical technique and helping treating complications. It has the potential to increase the number of collected data within the next years, taking account of the fact that currently only 15% of the European thoracic surgery units are contributing to the registry. Each thoracic surgery department should understand the advantages that imply joining the database, as single unit and as part of the whole group to improve the thoracic surgery practice around Europe.

Table 2 Structure of the ESTS chest wall database

Preoperative

General patients' characteristics

Diagnosis

Neoadjuvant chemo/radiotherapy

How defect affects patients (for congenital chest wall diseases)

Lung function and blood gas analysis

Comorbidities

Intraoperative

Chest wall subgroup (chest wall, costal cartilage, chest wall incision, reconstruction, rib, thoracoplasty)

Type of procedure

Reconstruction (technique and material)

Margins

Analgesia (epidural, localanesthetic, pericostal block)

Postoperative

Complication

Outcome at discharge, at 30 and 90 days

Length of hospital stay

Patients satisfaction at discharge

Length of epidural analgesia

Time to return to work

Follow up

Dead/alive

For Nuss procedures: (I) bar allergic reaction; (II) bar displacement and degree of displacement

Required reoperations

Wound infections

For rib fixation/chest wall reconstruction: reaction to different materials (allogenic/biologic better than artificial?)

Chronic pain syndrome

Other long-time complication

ESTS, European Society of Thoracic Surgery.

Table 3 Intraoperative characteristics in details

Congenital defects

Correction of pectus carinatum (open/minimally invasive)

Correction of pectus excavatum (open/Nuss)

Pectus silicon implant

Correction of pectus arcuatum

Mixed deformity

Pectus bar removal

Technique & materials

With/without sternal fixation

Number and type of bars/stabilizators (in case of removal: end of planned treatment, allergy to metal, repeated dislodgement, chronic pain)

Type of silicone implants

Rib and sternal procedures (traumas)

Resection

Fixation (flail chest)

Details

Indications (acute trauma, malunion, post surgical fixation, chronic pain, inability to wean from ventilator)

System used (abiomet, synthes, stratos/stracos, acute innovation rib lock, gunze absorbable pins, orthopedic nonthoracic specific devices)

Chest wall tumors (primary malignant/metastatic)

Resection with reconstruction

Resection without reconstruction (no needed, covered by scapula)

Details

Size and position of resection

Number and site of resected ribs

Technique/material of reconstruction (prostesis, muscle flap, myocutaneus flap, omentum)

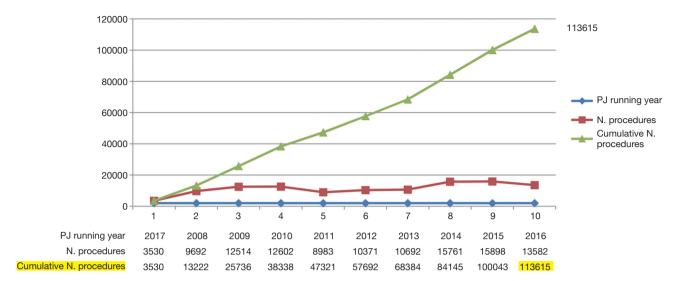


Figure 2 Total number of chest wall procedures registered in 2017 (updated until 11/2017).

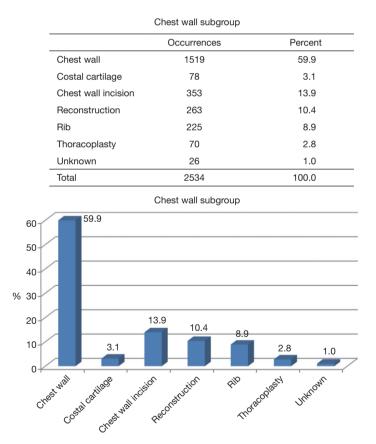


Figure 3 Chest wall procedures related to gender and age (updated until 11/2017).

	Description	N	%	
	Unknown	6	1.0	
	Pectus bar removal	159	27.1	
	Pectus carinatum correction	20	3.4	
	392	67.1		
Pectus arcuatum		2	0.3	
	Pectus repair	5	0.9	
	6	7.1		
70				
60				
50				
40	27.1			
30		_		
20				

3.4

excavatum

correction

Pectus

carinatum

correction

0.3

Pectus

arcuatum

0.9

Pectus

repair

Figure 4 Data about material used to reconstruction in patients undergoing pectus excavatum.

Pectus bar

removal

1.0

Unknown

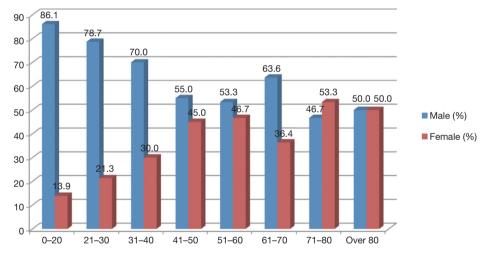


Figure 5 Completeness of the collected data.

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None.

Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Supplementary

ESTS preoperative chest wall

Date o	f thorsurgprocs
Date	n inorsurgprocs

Age at surgery

Height Weight

ВМІ

ASA

1: normal healthy individual, 2: mild systemic disease, 3: severe systemic disease not incapacitating, 4:

incapacitating systemic disease - constant threat to life, 5: patient moribund - not expected to survive 24 hours

MRC score 0: 1, 1: 2, 2: 3, 3: 4, 4: 5

Cardiac comorbidity 1 0: none, 1: coronary artery disease, 2: any previous cardiac surgery, 3: current treatment for hypertension, 4:

current treatment for arrhythmia, 5: current treatment for cardiac failure

Cardiac comorbidity 2 0: none, 1: coronary artery disease, 2: any previous cardiac surgery, 3: current treatment for hypertension, 4:

current treatment for arrhythmia, 5: current treatment for cardiac failure

Cardiac comorbidity 3 0: none, 1: coronary artery disease, 2: any previous cardiac surgery, 3: current treatment for hypertension, 4:

current treatment for arrhythmia, 5: current treatment for cardiac failure

Other comorbidities 1 0: none, 1: insulin-dependent diabetes, 2: serum creatinine >2 mg/dL, 3: CVA, 4: chronic kidney failure, 5:

COPD, 6: gastric ulcer, 7: liver disease, 8: connective tissue disease, 9: myasthenia gravis, 10: previous

malignancy, 11: other, 12: gastro-esophageal reflux

Other comorbidities 2 0: none, 1: insulin-dependent diabetes, 2: serum creatinine >2 mg/dL, 3: CVA, 4: chronic kidney failure, 5:

COPD, 6: gastric ulcer, 7: liver disease, 8: connective tissue disease, 9: myasthenia gravis, 10: previous

malignancy, 11: other, 12: gastro-esophageal reflux

Other comorbidities 3 0: none, 1: insulin-dependent diabetes, 2: serum creatinine >2 mg/dL, 3: CVA, 4: chronic kidney failure, 5:

COPD, 6: gastric ulcer, 7: liver disease, 8: connective tissue disease, 9: myasthenia gravis, 10: previous

malignancy, 11: other, 12: gastro-esophageal reflux

Urgency 0: elective, 1: urgent, 2: emergency

ECOG 0: fully active, 1: light work only, 2: mobile >50% waking hours, 3: mobile <50% waking hours, 4: immobile &

unable to self-care

FEV1, litres

FEV1, percent

FEVC, litres

PpoFEV1, percent

FVC, percent

FEV1, percent DLCO, percent

PpoDLCO, percent

Other diagnosis

Diagnosis 0: lung cancer (NSCLC), 6: empyema (acute: phase I/II), 1: lung cancer (SCLC), 2: oesophageal cancer, 3:

mesothelioma, 4: lymphoma, 5: thymic tumors, 7: empyema (chronic), 8: chronic pleural inflammation, 9: pulmonary TB, 10: COPD, 11: interstitial lung disease, 12: pneumothorax, 13: trauma, 14: achalasia, 15: gastro-oesophageal reflux, 16: paraoesophageal hernia, 17: emphysema, 18: Zenker's diverticulum, 19: pulmonary

metastasis, 20: carcinaoid, 21: other, 22: chest wall condition

Morphology 0: Non-neoplastic, 1: neoplastic benign, 2: neoplastic malignant primary, 3: neoplastic malignant secondary

Smokinghistory 0: never smoked, 1: past smoker (stopped >1 month prior to surgery), 2: current smoker, 3: unknown

Haller index value

CT scan 0: no, 1: yes

Shortness of breath 0: no, 1: yes
Chest pain 0: no, 1: yes
Arrhythmias 0: no, 1: yes

Palpitations 0: no, 1: yes
Low selfesteem 0: no, 1: yes

0: no, 1: yes

Psychological
Other symptom

Scoliosis 0: no, 1: yes

Marfan 0: no, 1: yes

Ehlers danlos 0: no, 1: yes

Cardiac disease 0: no, 1: yes

Previous cardiac surg 0: no, 1: yes

Previous chest surg 0: no, 1: yes

Group definition 0: lung, 1: pleura, 2: chest wall, 3: trachea: bronchus, 4: mediastinum, 5: upper GI, 6: diaphragm

Group other procedure

VATS 0: no, 1: yes

Chest wall subgroup 0: chest wall, 1: costal cartilage, 2: chest wall incision, 3: reconstruction, 4: rib, 5: thoracoplasty

Chest wall procedures 0: biopsy of chest wall lesion, 1: creation of thoracic stoma, 2: excision of chest wall lesion, 3:

repair of chest wall, 4: excision/repair of chest wall, 5: correction of chest wall defects

Qualifier excision of chest wall lesion 0: distant flap, 1: local flap, 2: microvascular transferred flap

Qualifier for repair of chest wall 0: plugging flail chest, 1: suture, 2: osteosynthesis

Excision repair qualifier 0: prosthesis, 1: muscle flap, 2: myocutaneous flap, 3: omentum

Costal cartilage procedure 1: excision of costal cartilage, 2: excision of xifisternum, 3: fixation of costal cartilage

Chest wall incision procedures 0: exploratory median sternotomy, 1: exploratory thoracotomy, 2: mini thoracotomy, 3: previous

chest wall incision

Correction of chest wall defects qualifier 0: pectus bar removal, 1: pectus carinatum correction, 2: pectus excavatum correction, 3:

pectus silicon implant, 4: pectus arcuatum, 5: mixed deformity, 6: pectus repair

Rib procedures 0: rib resection, 1: rib resection for drainage, 2: rib fixation

Qualifier for rib resection 0: biopsy, 1: for pain, 2: fracture

Thoracoplasty procedures 0: plombage procedure, 1: thoracoplasty procedure

Qualifier for plombage 0: insertion of plomb, 1: removal of plomb

Qualifier for thoracoplasty 0: limited thoracoplasty, 1: schede thoracoplasty, 2: total thoracoplasty

Costal cartilage procedures 1: excision of costal cartilage, 2: excision of xifisternum, 3: fixation of costal cartilage

0: with internal fixation, 1: without internal fixation Qualifier pectus carenatum

Rib sternal fixation 1: referral for surgery, 2: acute trauma, 3: malunion, 4: post-surgical fixation, 5: chronic pain, 6:

inability to wean from ventilator

Flail chest 0: no, 1: yes Surgery 0: no, 1: yes

1: abiomet, 2: synthes, 3: stratos/stracos, 4: acute innovation rib lock, 5: gunze absorbable pins, System used

6: orthopedic non-thoracic specific devices

Number of plates used Number of screws used

Acute trauma and fixation within 48 h

0: no, 1: yes

Type of surgery 1: talc pleurodesis, 2: local resection, 3: other

0: no, 1: yes Reoperation Metallic implants 0: no, 1: yes

System adopted correction chest wall

defects

1: abiomet, 2: synthes, 3: 3D medical, 4: other proprietary, country specific device

Number of bars 1: 1, 2: 2, 3: 3

Number of stabilizers 1: 1 per bar, 2: 2 per bar, 3: no stabilizers , 4: additional sutures

Titanium bars 0: no, 1: yes Lactosorb 0: no, 1: yes Carinatum stabilization 0: no, 1: yes

Time from first operation

1: end of planned treatment, 2: allergy to metal, 3: repeated dislodgement, 4: chronic pain Cause for removal

Chest wall resection with or without repair

1: primary chest wall tumour, 2: secondary malignancy invading the chest wall

Site of resection/chest wall resection

1: 1st to 3rd rib, 2: 4th to 9th rib

Location resection 1: anterior location, 2: posterior location

Covered by scapula 0: no, 1: yes Extended resection 0: no, 1: yes Reconstruction performed 0: no, 1: yes

Device bars 1: stratos, 2: synthes, 3: other

Margins 1: positive margins, 2: less than 1 cm, 3: 1 to 3 cm, 4: >4 cm

Operative technique nuss 0: no, 1: yes Operative technique park 0: no, 1: yes Operative technique pillegard 0: no, 1: yes Operative technique other 0: no, 1: yes

Comments operative technique

Stabilizer used Comments stabilizer

Crane technique 0: no, 1: yes Vacuum bell 0: no, 1: yes Other sternal elevation 0: no, 1: yes

Comments sternal elevation

Epidural 0: no, 1: yes Local anesthetic 0: no, 1: yes Pericostal block 0: no, 1: yes

Comments adjuvant to anesthesia

Correction method Type surgery carinatum

Pectus brace

Associate physio therapy manoeuvres 0: no, 1: yes Reabsorbable pericardium 0: no, 1: yes Patch 0: no, 1: yes Titanium bars excision repair chest wall 0: no, 1: yes

Number of ribs resected

Pleurectomy pleurodesis* 0: pleurectomy, 1: chemical pleurodesis, 2: mechanical pleurodesis

Prev chest wall incqualifier* 0: debridement, 1: procedure for sinus, 2: removal of wires, 3: reopening, 4: repair with flap, 5:

resuture

Reason no surgery*

1: mesh, 2: pericardial patch, 3: absorbable pericardial patch, 4: metylmethacrylate sandwich, 5: Type of reconstruction* titanium bars, 6: titanium plus pericardium, 7: custom made patient-matched titanium implants

^{*,} denotes fields multichoice.

ESTS postoperative chest wall	
Date of discharge	
Complication 1	0: none, 1: air leak >5 days, 2: anastomotic leak (conservative), 3: anastomotic leak (requiring surgery), 4: ARDS, 5: atrial arrhythmia RX postop, 6: bronchopleural fistula, 8: atelectasis, 9: cardiac failure, 10: cerebro-vascular complications, 11: chylothorax, 12: conduit ischaemia, 13: delirium, 14: DVT, 15: empyema, 16: initial ventilation >48 hours, 17: multisystem failure, 18: myocardial infarct, 19: phrenic nerve injury, 20: pneumonia, 21: pulmonary embolism, 22: pulmonary oedema, 23: recurrent nerve palsy, 25: renal failure, 24: reintubate, 28: unexpected admission to ICU, 26: reoperation for bleeding, 27: tracheostomy, 29: ventricular arrhythmia RX postop, 30: wound infection, 31: other
Complication 2	0: none, 1: air leak >5 days, 2: anastomotic leak (conservative), 3: anastomotic leak (requiring surgery), 4: ARDS, 5: atrial arrhythmia RX postop, 6: bronchopleural fistula, 8: atelectasis, 9: cardiac failure, 10: cerebro-vascular complications, 11: chylothorax, 12: conduit ischaemia, 13: delirium, 14: DVT, 15: empyema, 16: initial ventilation >48 hours, 17: multisystem failure, 18: myocardial infarct, 19: phrenic nerve injury, 20: pneumonia, 21: pulmonary embolism, 22: pulmonary oedema, 23: recurrent nerve palsy, 25: renal failure, 24: reintubate, 28: unexpected admission to ICU, 26: reoperation for bleeding, 27: tracheostomy, 29: ventricular arrhythmia RX postop, 30: wound infection, 31: other
Complication3	0: none, 1: air leak >5 days, 2: anastomotic leak (conservative), 3: anastomotic leak (requiring surgery), 4: ARDS, 5: atrial arrhythmia RX postop, 6: bronchopleural fistula, 8: atelectasis, 9: cardiac failure, 10: cerebro-vascular complications, 11: chylothorax, 12: conduit ischaemia, 13: delirium, 14: DVT, 15: empyema, 16: initial ventilation >48 hours, 17: multisystem failure, 18: myocardial infarct, 19: phrenic nerve injury, 20: pneumonia, 21: pulmonary embolism, 22: pulmonary oedema, 23: recurrent nerve palsy, 25: renal failure, 24: reintubate, 28: unexpected admission to ICU, 26: reoperation for bleeding, 27: tracheostomy, 29: ventricular arrhythmia RX postop, 30: wound infection, 31: other
Major cardiopulmonary complications	0: no, 1: yes
Date of death	
Cause of death	0: death related to this operation, 1: death related to another operation, 3: death after discharge clearly unrelated to this operation
Outcome at discharge	0: alive at discharge, 1: died in hospital
Outcome at 30 days	0: alive at 30 days, 1: dead at 30 days
Notes	
unexpected return	0: no, 1: yes
Re-admission to any hospital within 30 days discharge	0: no, 1: yes, 2: unknown
Outcome at 90 days	0: death, 1: alive, 3: unknown
Length of hospital stay	
Length of surgery min	
VAS score	1: 1, 2: 2, 3: 3, 4: 4, 5: 5, 6: 6, 7: 7, 8: 8, 9: 9, 10: 10
Patients satisfaction at discharge	1: 1, 2: 2, 3: 3, 4: 4, 5: 5, 6: 6, 7: 7, 8: 8, 9: 9, 10: 10
Length of epidural analgesia	
Time to return to work	
Entryid	
Any pectus recurrence with bar removal	0: no, 1: yes
Mortality with bar removal surgery	0: no, 1: yes
Bar allergic reaction	0: no, 1: yes
Bar displacement	0: no, 1: yes
Degree displacement	
Required reoperation	0: no, 1: yes
Comments bar displacement	
Pneumothorax requiring chest tube	0: no, 1: yes
Pleural effusion	0: no, 1: yes
Cardiac injury	0: no, 1: yes
Pericardial injury	0: no, 1: yes
Major vascular injury	0: no, 1: yes
Lung injury	0: no, 1: yes
Trocar related injury	0: no, 1: yes
Describe anest related injury	
Other complication	0: no, 1: yes
Comments complications	
Anesthesia related injury	0: no, 1: yes

Thoracic outlet syndrome

Specify complication

Pericarditis

0: no, 1: yes

0: no, 1: yes

ESTS follow up chest wall				
Date last followup				
Date of death				
Alive	0: no, 1: yes			
Cause of death	0: cardiac, 1: neurological, 2: renal, 3: respiratory, 4: pulmonary embolism, 5: GI, 6: infection, 7: cancer recurrence, 8: other cancer, 9: others, 10: not known			
Entryid				
Bar allergic reaction flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Bar displacement flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Degree displacement				
Required reoperation	0: no, 1: yes			
Comments bar displacement				
Developed pectus carinatum flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Recurrent pectus excavatum flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Cardiac injury flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Aortic or vascular injury flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Thoracic outlet syndrome flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Worsening scoliosis flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Chronic pain syndrome flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Other complication flow	0: no, 1: yes			
Wound infection flow	0: no, 1: yes			