



Surgical approaches to video-assisted thoracic surgery lobectomy: a brief preface

Approximately two decades ago, thoracic surgery witnessed the leap from thoracotomy to the first video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) lobectomy. VATS lobectomy is now widely established as a safe and oncological sound technology that is the standard of care for early-stage lung cancer. Reduction of trauma, bleeding, pain, hospitalisation time and recovery for the patient, these, in short, the main advantages of minimally invasive surgery that for several years is now increasingly replacing the traditional thoracotomy in many pulmonary surgical indications. The move toward less invasive surgery has no doubt driven the innovation of sophisticated instruments and technology to cope with the demanding need of working through a restricted incision. VATS for the treatment of lung cancer (the big killer for which over 28,000 people die in Italy every year) is practised in centres where surgeons have had specific training.

The 26th–27th April 2018, in Teramo and Giulianova Terme (Italy), Prof. Roberto Crisci arranged a conference, with the major Italian and European thoracic surgery experts, dedicated to VATS in the treatment of lung cancer (specifically VATS lobectomy). The conference, divided into 2 days, scheduled a day of live surgery from the operating rooms of the Hospital of Teramo with the presence of two leading European experts of VATS lobectomy, Prof. Joel Dunning from Middlesbrough (UK) and Prof. Thomaz Stupnick from Ljubljana (SLO) who interacted with Italian experts and colleagues.

The papers, which are collected in this thematic issue of the *Shanghai Chest*, aims to present and to publish the experience and technique for VATS lobectomy shared by the world-known experts based on clinical or experimental studies of different centres performing VATS lobectomy. Through this issue, we hope to update the international literature on this topic and share different international experiences on surgical approaches to VATS lobectomy, as well as to provide young surgeons with a comprehensive discussion.

Acknowledgments

Funding: None.

Footnote

Provenance and Peer Review: This article was commissioned by the editorial office, *Shanghai Chest* for the series “Surgical Approaches to VATS Lobectomy: Meet the Experts”. The article did not undergo external peer review.

Conflicts of Interest: Both authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/shc.2018.12.12>). The series “Surgical Approaches to VATS Lobectomy: Meet the Experts” was commissioned by the editorial office without any funding or sponsorship. LB served as the unpaid Guest Editor of the series and serves as an unpaid editorial board member of *Shanghai Chest* from Jun 2017 to May 2019. The authors have no other conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Open Access Statement: This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits the non-commercial replication and distribution of the article with the strict proviso that no changes or edits are made and the original work is properly cited (including links to both the formal publication through the relevant DOI and the license). See: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.



Luca Bertolaccini, MD, PhD, FCCP



Roberto Crisci, MD, PhD

Luca Bertolaccini¹

*¹Department of Thoracic Surgery, Maggiore Teaching Hospital, Bologna, Italy;
(Email: luca.bertolaccini@gmail.com)*

Roberto Crisci²

*²Division of Thoracic Surgery, MeSVA Department, University of L'Aquila, Italy.
(Email: roberto.crisci@cc.univaq.it)*

Received: 22 December 2018; Accepted: 08 January 2019; Published: 09 January 2019.

doi: 10.21037/shc.2018.12.12

View this article at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/shc.2018.12.12>

doi: 10.21037/shc.2018.12.12

Cite this article as: Bertolaccini L, Crisci R. Surgical approaches to video-assisted thoracic surgery lobectomy: a brief preface. Shanghai Chest 2019;3:5.