

## Peer Review File

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### Reviewer Comments

Good narrative review. Some of the references that discuss veteran lung cancer outcomes are rather older, for example #10 (year 2000) and #13 (year 2005), however the use of older references may be due to lack of more recent studies to report. The authors should explain why older studies were referenced and whether one can extrapolate the findings to more recent patient outcomes.

Overall, this paper serves as a nice review of this topic especially given the lack of definitive data on this topic especially among patients at Veteran Administration hospitals.

**Reply:** We appreciate the reviewer's comments. While there have been studies in recent years addressing lung cancer outcomes using VATS in civilian populations worldwide, fewer studies have addressed this in US veterans. By including older references in conjunction with newer studies, we hope to provide the reader with context for the current state of use and feasibility of VATS specifically in treating US veterans. Extrapolating from these data is reasonable when done carefully and in conjunction with newer studies. We have also incorporated newer references on veteran lung cancer data, and we cited these in the appropriate places.

### Changes in text:

Additional resources cited and their locations:

-Introduction, paragraph 3 (Page 4)

- Ceppa DP, Kosinski AS, Berry MF, et al. Thoracoscopic lobectomy has increasing benefit in patients with poor pulmonary function: a Society of Thoracic Surgeons Database analysis. *Ann Surg.* 2012;256(3):487-493. doi:10.1097/SLA.0b013e318265819c

- Jeon JH, Kang CH, Kim HS, et al. Video-assisted thoracoscopic lobectomy in non-small-cell lung cancer patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is associated with lower pulmonary complications than open lobectomy: a propensity score-matched analysis. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2014;45(4):640-645. doi:10.1093/ejcts/ezt460

-Introduction, paragraph 4 (page 4):

-Zullig LL, Sims KJ, McNeil R, et al. Cancer Incidence Among Patients of the U.S. Veterans Affairs Health Care System: 2010 Update. *Mil Med.* 2017;182(7):e1883-e1891. doi:10.7205/MILMED-D-16-00371.

- American Cancer Society. Facts & Figures 2023, Special Section: Lung Cancer. American Cancer Society. Atlanta, GA. 2023. Accessed February 2023.

- St Julien JB, Pinkerman R, Aldrich MC, et al. Poor survival for veterans with pathologic stage I non-small-cell lung cancer. *Am J Surg.* 2012;204(5):637-642. doi:10.1016/j.amjsurg.2012.07.008