

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1: One suggestion is at Figure one Please convert RVATS to robotic lung resection if this is not total robotic surgery number. No legends were recognized for Figures 2 and 1.

Reply 1: Thank you for this helpful comment. We have changed the wording of this figure to clarify the included procedures. Figure legends previously appeared on the second page of each figure file. For clarity, we have moved them to the end of the manuscript.

Comment 2: I also suggest to decrease the number of Tables if possible.

Reply 2: We recognize that due to the design of the project tables 1&2 are quite large. However we do not feel we can decrease the overall number of tables while effectively communicating the minimum necessary demographic information.

Reviewer B

Comment 1: In the LL, HE centers, there seems to be significantly fewer total cases done (348 robotic cases done). The LL, LE centers did nearly 3000 robotic cases. Is the total number of robotic cases being the actual reason for higher conversion rates? The authors may want to discuss this further.

Reply 1: Thank you for this comment. The LL, HE group is a small one, which is not surprising: it is rare for centers to have high esophagectomy volume but low robotic lung surgery volume. The conversion rate for robotic lung cancer resections in the LL, LE group was higher than in the HL, LE and HL, HE centers. The HL, HE group specifically had a similar number of overall cases to the LL, LE group, and yet a lower conversion rate for both robotic lung cancer resection and RAMIE. We feel that the data strongly suggests that volume of robotic lung cancer resection has an impact on conversion from RAMIE to open esophagectomy.

Comment 2: The authors mention in the limitations section that the study may be underpowered. Was a power analysis performed?

Reply 2: A formal power analysis was not performed, and this has been clarified in the text (page 12 line 281)

Comment 3: P10, L11: "robotic procedures in toto have not been defined" can be changed simply to "minimum volume thresholds for robotic procedures have not been defined"

Reply 3: Thank you for this helpful comment. We have changed the line of text as suggested.

Comment 4: Figure 2 is not referenced in the text.

Reply 4: Thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention, the figure is now referenced in the text (page 9, line 210)