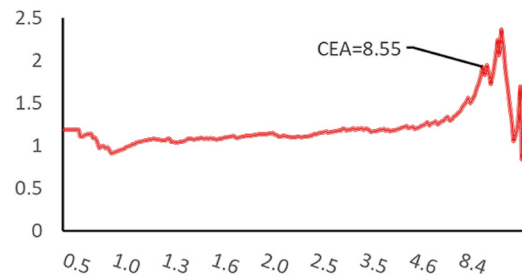


## Supplementary

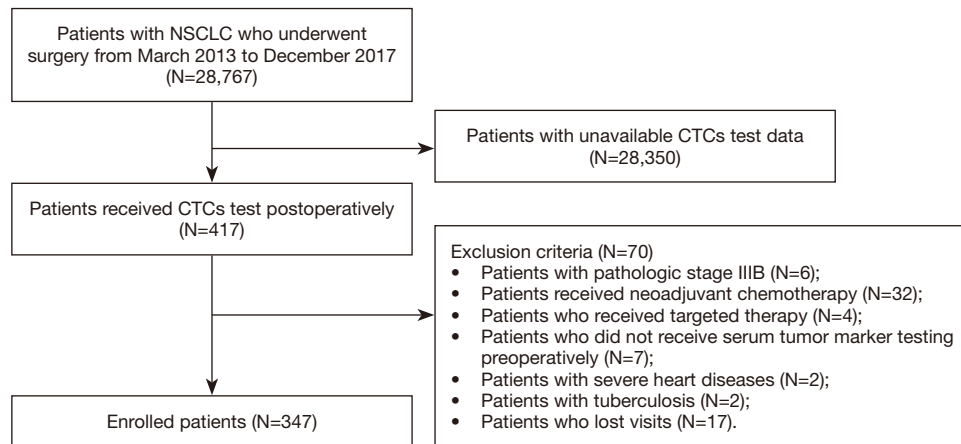
**Table S1** Relationship between CTC concentration and metastatic sites in NSCLC patients (n=347)

Characteristic	CTC concentration (FU)
All patients	12.09±5.54
Metastatic site	
No metastasis	11.24±5.12
Lung	15.99±5.69
Brain	17.02±5.67
Bone	16.89±4.13
Liver	25.56
Multiple	17.25±4.78
Intrapulmonary	15.99±5.69
Extrapulmonary	17.34±5.29

CTC, circulating tumor cell; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; FU, functional unit.



**Figure S2** The cutoff-value of CEA according to the dichotomized value. The patients were divided into two group according to their dichotomized CEA value, and the patients were divided into two groups according to the dichotomized value. The log-rank method was used to detect the statistical significance of survival. According to the number of patients and statistical power, the optimal CEA cutoff value was selected. Based on this curve, we found that CEA did not increase significantly in patients with early NSCLC, and CEA was high to a certain extent before it impacted survival, resulting in imbalance between the two groups. NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen.



**Figure S1** Flowchart for patient selection in this study. NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; CTC, circulating tumor cell.