


Commentary on: undertreatment trend in elderly lung cancer patients in Brazil

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To the Editors:

With great interests, we read the article by Prof. Costa et al. (2017), which concluded that lung cancer patients ≥ 70 years of age were often undertreated in Brazil.

Prof. Costa et al. separate the population with lung cancer in Brazil into two groups (aged < 70 and aged ≥ 70). It is well known that patients with comorbidities usually have higher performance status (PS), and patients with different PS may get different clinical curative efficacy from the same therapy (Singh et al. 2017). However, in the study by Costa and colleagues (Costa et al. 2017), both performance status and comorbidities are not described in detail and seem to be ignored. It is quite possible that patients with higher levels of performance status or more comorbidities may not be given chemotherapy and other treatment modalities. These potential influencing factors may need to be incorporated in multivariate analysis.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest regarding the present article.

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Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Informed consent For this type of article, informed consent is not required.

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