



Malignant pleural mesothelioma

Walter Klepetko

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Dear Reader,

Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is a rare but highly malignant disease. Although it is not officially accepted as an orphan disease, its low incidence imposes significant difficulties to physicians confronted with affected patients.

To date, no uniform curative treatment strategy has been identified and the search for better treatment options remains an important challenge.

In view of this background, a group of Austrian physicians assembled several years ago with the intention of forming the so-called Austrian Mesothelioma Interest Group (AMIG). The goal of this group was to

collect data on patients with MPM in Austria, with the perspective of better describing the incidence, treatment mode, and outcome of this disease. With very few exceptions, all larger pulmonology departments and many other smaller units in Austria have contributed to this project. Regular meetings were held by the group over the years, which aimed to review the available data, to intensify the dialogue, to increase knowledge about recent developments, and to raise awareness in general.

In the following trilogy of publications, the most important aspects of MPM are summarized. Part 1 describes the epidemiology, diagnosis, and staging. Part 2 overviews the therapeutic approaches currently available. Finally, Part 3 represents a summary of the data that have been collected by the AMIG during the last few years.

With this series of papers, the AMIG members hope to contribute to the improvement of the situation of MPM patients in Austria.

Conflict of interest W. Klepetko declares that he has no competing interests.

W. Klepetko on behalf of the members of the Austrian Mesothelioma Interest Group (AMIG).

Univ. Prof. Dr. W. Klepetko (✉)
Division of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery,
Comprehensive Cancer Center, Medical University Vienna,
Vienna, Austria
thoracicsurgery@meduniwien.ac.at

Members of the AMIG are (alphabetical order)	
Ambrosch G.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Graz West, Graz, Austria
Arns M.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Hohegg, Hohegg, Austria
Augustin F.	Department of Surgery, University Clinic Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria
Baumer H.	Department of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Klinikum Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria
Baumgartner B.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Vöcklabruck, Vöcklabruck, Austria
Bitterlich E.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Vöcklabruck, Vöcklabruck, Austria
Blazek G.	Department of Pulmonology, Krankenhaus Hietzing, Vienna, Austria
Bolitschek J.	Department of Pulmonology, Hospital of Elisabethinen Linz, Linz, Austria
Cerkl P.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Hohenems, Austria
Dong Y.	Division of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Eckmayr J.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Wels, Wels, Austria
Errhalt P.	Department of Pulmonology, University Clinic Krems, Krems, Austria
Flicker M.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Leoben, Leoben, Austria
Geltner C.	Department of Pulmonology, Klinikum Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria
Handzhiev S.	Department of Pulmonology, University Clinic Krems, Krems, Austria
Hasenhüttl N.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Hörgas-Enzenbach, Enzenbach, Austria
Hernler T.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Hohenems, Austria
Hoda M.A.	Division of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Jamnik H.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Hochzirl-Natters, Natters, Austria
Kirchbacher K.	Department of Pulmonology, Wilhelminenspital, Vienna, Austria
Klepětko W.	Division of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Klikovits T.	Division of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Kneussl M.	Department of Pulmonology, Wilhelminenspital, Vienna, Austria
Machan B.	AUVA Rehabilitation Clinic Tobelbad, Tobelbad, Austria
Olschewski H.	Division of Pulmonology, Department of Internal Medicine, University Clinic Graz, Graz, Austria
Pohl W.	Department of Pulmonology, Krankenhaus Hietzing, Vienna, Austria
Polachova J.	Division of Pulmonology, Department of Internal Medicine, University Clinic Graz, Graz, Austria
Popper H.	Department of Pathology, Medical University Graz, Graz, Austria
Porsch P.	Department of Pulmonology, University Clinic Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria
Schenk P.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Hohegg, Hohegg, Austria
Schmid T.	Department of Surgery, University Clinic Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria
Speiser M.	Department of Pulmonology, University Clinic Krems, Krems, Austria
Stockhammer P.	Division of Thoracic Surgery, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Studnicka M.	Department of Pulmonology, University Clinic Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria
Trockenbacher C.	Department of Pulmonology, Landeskrankenhaus Wels, Wels, Austria
Wandschneider W.	Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Klinikum Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, Austria
Wonisch S.	AUVA Rehabilitation Clinic Tobelbad, Tobelbad, Austria
Wurm R.	Division of Pulmonology, Department of Internal Medicine, University Clinic Graz, Graz, Austria
Zöchbauer-Müller S.	Division of Oncology, Department of Medicine I, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria