LETTER – THORACIC ONCOLOGY

Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery for Patients with Advanced-Stage Non-small Cell Lung Cancer: A Reply

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TO THE EDITORS:

In response to the letter to the Editor by Cao et al. pertaining to our recent report describing outcomes for video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) for a series of patients with advanced-stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC),¹ we would agree with the comments. The primary intention of our retrospective study was to demonstrate the feasibility and safety of performing VATS resections for patients with advanced-stage NSCLC. Though our conversion rate was higher than what might be expected, this was a select group of cases that normally would have been approached by thoracotomy by many

surgeons, even those performing VATS lobectomy for early-stage lung cancer. Expanding inclusion criteria for patients suitable for VATS resection who would be too frail for thoracotomy will expand treatment options for many patients. It is this patient population who stand to benefit most from expanded inclusion criteria for VATS resections.

REFERENCE

1. Hennon M, Sahai RK, Yendamuri S, et al. Safety of thoracoscopic lobectomy in locally advanced lung cancer. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2011;18(13):3732–6.