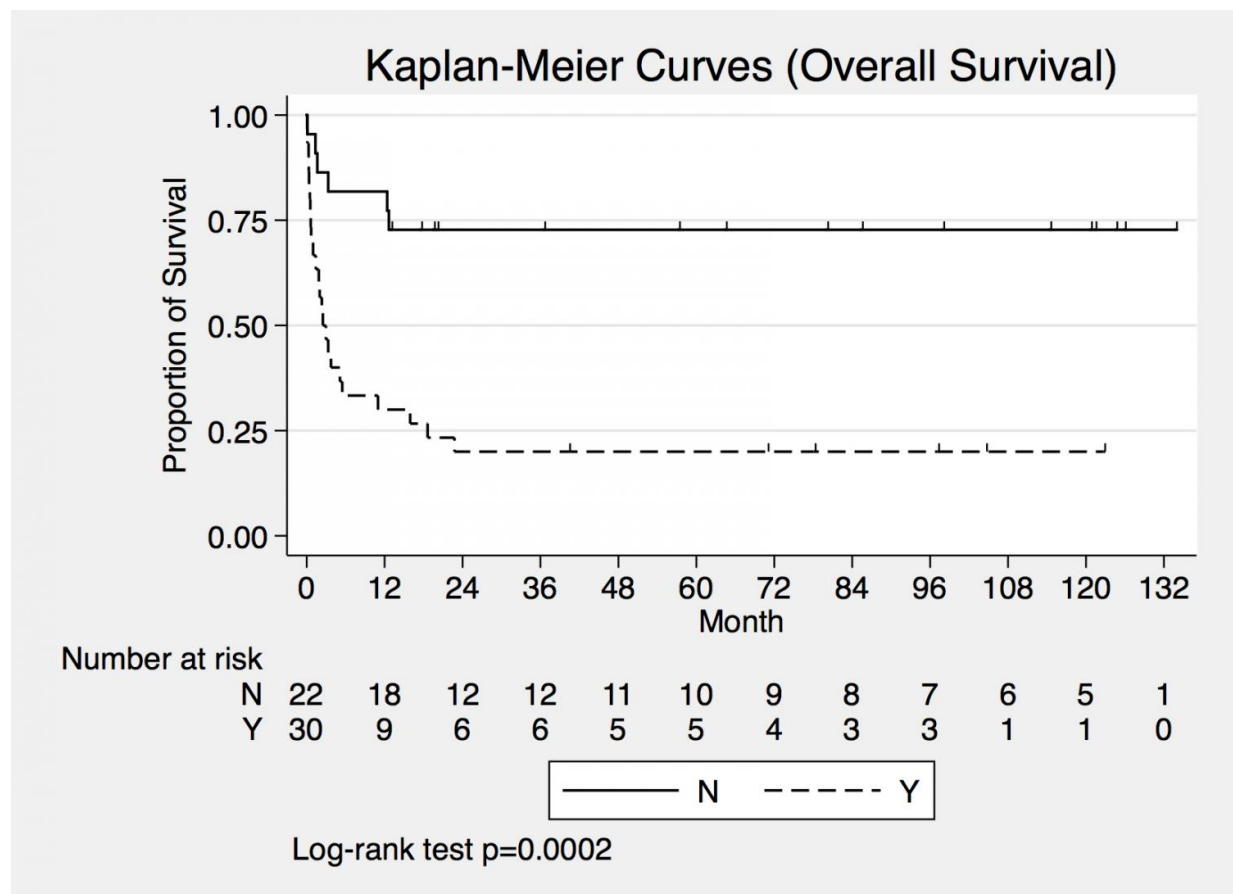


# Pericardial window operation less efficient in cases of lung cancer than any other cancer

April 11 2016



Picture of Kaplan-Meier curves for overall survival, by lung cancer status.  
Credit: Robert J. Chen

Pericardial window operation, a procedure, where abnormal quantity of

malignant fluid, or malignant pericardial effusion (MPE), surrounding the heart, is drained into the neighbouring chest cavity through a surgically placed tube, is commonly applied to patients diagnosed with cancer.

However, researchers from the Taipei Tzuchi Hospital, Taiwan, have now looked into the [electronic medical records](#) of 52 cancer patients, including 30 cases of lung-cancer, archived between 2005 and 2015. They conclude that the treatment is not as effective in lung cancer cases when compared to any other cancer patients. In their study, published in the open access journal *Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO)*, they also suggest a few no inferior alternatives worth of consideration.

The authors retrieved retrospective data of the patients and compared them in terms of hospital stay length, overall mortality and overall length of survival. They also took details such as dates of operations, hospital discharge and death, into account.

As a result, they found out that there was not any significant difference between the treatment's outcomes in the patients groups at the time of [hospital](#) release. On the other hand, over a longer ten-year timeline, it turned out that the lung [cancer patients](#) have experienced notably higher mortality rate.

Alternative treatments for MPE, such as less invasive, yet no less efficient, methods relying on needle punctures instead of an "open" approach, where internal organs and tissues are exposed, are proposed by the authors. However, they note that the decision for a treatment needs to be taken strictly individually.

"Since the MPE prognosis is multi-factorial, the superiority of percutaneous versus surgical approach is still controversial," they explain.

In conclusion, the researchers point out that their survey is a single-institution based one and not quite extensive, so there is still need for research to track the relation between a type of cancer and the MPE treatments.

**More information:** Robert Chen et al. Pericardial window operation for malignant pericardial effusion may have worse outcomes for lung cancer than the other cancers, *Research Ideas and Outcomes* (2016).

[DOI: 10.3897/rio.2.e8758](https://doi.org/10.3897/rio.2.e8758)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: Pericardial window operation less efficient in cases of lung cancer than any other cancer (2016, April 11) retrieved 3 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-04-pericardial-window-efficient-cases-lung.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--