

**Table 1. Characteristics of subjects**

Variables	Patients: n=50
Age (years)	64 (52 to 72)
Male (%)	30 (60%)
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.5 (23.2 to 27.2)
COPD	12 (24%)
Active smoking	20 (40%)
Chronic heart failure (LVEF<30%)	9 (18%)
Diabetes mellitus	6 (12%)
ASA score	
- ASA 1	3 (6%)
- ASA 2	21 (42%)
- ASA 3	24 (48%)
- ASA 4	2 (4%)
Type of surgery	
- Wedge resection	17 (34%)
- Lobectomy	30 (60%)
- Pneumonectomy	3 (6%)
Prior thoracic surgery	6 (12%)
Intervention duration (min)	150 (120 to 255)
Indication for surgery	
- Neoplasia	39 (78%)
- Infectious process	9 (18%)
- other	2 (4%)
Lymph nodes resection	36 (72%)
Surgical approach	
- antero-lateral or postero-lateral thoracotomy	39 (78%)
- mini thoracotomy	7 (14%)
- video-assisted thoracoscopy	4 (8%)
Phrenic injury (suspected or confirmed) during surgery	6 (12%)
Mechanical ventilation ≥48h	4 (8%)
Perioperative analgesia	
- paravertebral blokade	4 (8%)
- thoracic epidural	1 (2%)
- wound analgesic catheter	2 (4%)
- wound infiltration (ropivacaine)	24 (48%)
- Opioids	0 (0 to 75)
Chest tubes in place (days)	5 (4 to 9)
Need for ICU in the postoperative period	14 (28%)
Hospital length of stay (days)	11 (8 to 19)

Values: number of patients (%), or median (interquartile range). BMI: Body mass index; COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists, ASA grades are defined as follows: 1, a healthy patient; 2, a patient with mild systemic disease that does not limit physical activity, 3, a patient with severe systemic disease that limits physical activity; 4, a patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life; (grade 5 patients were not eligible for study enrolment); ICU: intensive care unit