

Outcome Analysis of Thoracic Surgeries: A Retrospective Study Using Extensive Patient Data

Abdulsalam Mohammed Aleid, Hasan Ali Abdullah AlAidarous, Abdulwahab Ahmed Alzahrani, Yousef Khalaf A Alghamdi, Mohammed Yousef Alessa, Abdulrahman Almoslem, Saud Nayef Salem Aldanyowi,

Department of surgery, Medical college, King Faisal University, Hofuf, Ahsa, 31982, Saudi Arabia. Faculty of Medicine, Surgery Department, Albaha University, Saudi Arabia Associated Professor, Surgery Department, Faculty of Medicine, Albaha University Teaching Assistant, Surgery Department, Faculty Of Medicine, Albaha University. Department of Surgery, Medical College, King Faisal University, Hofuf, Ahsa, 31982, Saudi Arabia Department of Surgery, Medical College, King Faisal University, Hofuf, Ahsa, 31982, Saudi Arabia Consultant General Surgery, King Faisal University, Alhasa, Saudi Arabia Department of Surgery, Medical College, King Faisal University, Hofuf, Ahsa, 31982, Saudi Arabia

KEYWORDS ABSTRACT

Introduction: Thoracic procedures include substantial risks and complications. Examining postoperative outcomes is essential for comprehending the efficacy of treatment and pinpointing potential risk factors. This study examined a comprehensive dataset of patients who underwent thoracic surgery in order to evaluate the outcomes and their correlations.

Methods: Retrospective study was performed on a dataset consisting of 470 patients who undergone different types of thoracic operations. An analysis was conducted on variables related to the patient's characteristics before surgery (such as demographics and comorbidities), the type of procedure performed during surgery, and any complications or death that occurred after surgery. The sample was characterized using descriptive statistics. The relationships between variables were evaluated through the use of correlation analysis, analysis of variance (ANOVA), chi-square test, and Bayesian regression analysis.

Results: The study consisted of 349 lobectomies, 47 pneumonectomies, and surgeries for diverse illnesses. The average age of the patients was 62.53 years. The rate of death within one year after surgery was 14.9%. Greater procedural risk scores were linked to higher fatality rates (Bayesian regression analysis revealed a posterior mode of 3.682, with a 95% confidence interval of 0.618-6.746). Lower forced expiratory volume was found to be a predictive factor for worse outcomes in the preoperative stage. The mortality rate for procedure type DGN2/3 was lower than that for DGN4/5/6, with posterior modes ranging from 0.690 to 3.639 and 95% confidence intervals that overlapped with zero.

Conclusion: The examination of a substantial dataset on thoracic surgery yielded valuable information about the results and their correlations. Elevated risk ratings and certain preoperative variables were associated with higher fatality rates. Lobectomies yielded superior outcomes compared to large resections. The utilization of comprehensive patient-level data and the application of a Bayesian methodology facilitate the comprehension of the elements that influence the effectiveness of thoracic surgery. Prospective studies have the ability to investigate high-risk subgroups that have been identified.

Keyword: Thoracic surgery, results, complications, mortality, Bayesian analysis, and risk variables are the keywords of interest.

1. Introduction

Thoracic surgeries, such as lobectomies, pneumonectomies, and mediastinal procedures, are frequently conducted to address a range of pulmonary and mediastinal illnesses(Abrishami Kashani et al. 2022). Due to progress in surgical procedures and perioperative care, there has been a substantial decrease in postoperative complications and deaths in recent decades. Nevertheless, thoracic surgeries continue to entail significant risks and persist as one of the most resource-intensive procedures conducted (Connolly and Auchincloss 2021). Minor surgical problems might have severe implications due to their connection with key organs such as the lungs and their closeness to major arteries and airways. The systematic gathering and examination of patient outcomes data is essential for comprehending the effectiveness of treatments, identifying characteristics that increase the risk of negative outcomes, and guiding attempts to enhance quality (Cosarcan et al. 2021). Prior research has examined the results of surgical procedures performed on the chest. Nevertheless, the majority of studies were of small, singlecenter cohorts and focused on a narrow range of preoperative and intraoperative parameters. Current advances involve the use of extensive clinical registries and databases to address these constraints and gain a more thorough understanding of factors that affect postoperative outcomes in various institutions(Farrell et al. 2021). This enhances comprehension of variations among various healthcare systems and populations, and enables the categorization of distinct patient groups into different risk levels based on several clinical criteria. Extensive datasets have been successfully utilized to examine outcomes in other intricate surgery, such as cardiac and vascular procedures(Ferreira-Silva et al. 2024). The objective of this study was to examine the results of thoracic operations after the operation by conducting a thorough analysis of a large multicenter database that covers a period of more than ten years (Gaissert 2021). The main goal was to analyze and describe the rates of postoperative complications and deaths, and determine any connections between these outcomes and other factors before, during, and after surgery (Gaissert 2021; Gunluoglu, Ormeci, and Sen 2023). As far as we know, this study is one of the most complete ones conducted so far, as it evaluates a wide range of preoperative risk factors, intraoperative details, and postoperative outcomes in patients undergoing thoracic surgery. This study has improved capabilities compared to earlier investigations that used isolated center cohorts, limited variables, and traditional statistical methodologies (Gunluoglu, Ormeci, and Sen 2023; Han 2022). The enhanced capabilities of this study are attributed to the following strengths: The inclusion of a substantial sample size of 470 patients from several institutions enabled more rigorous subgroup analyses and risk classification, surpassing the limitations of prior smaller research. Greater sample sizes are required to accurately examine results among various patient subgroups, taking into account factors such as age, comorbidities, and treatment type(Han 2022; Iesu, Chivasso, and Bruno 2023). A comprehensive assessment was conducted on a total of 82 preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative factors, which were obtained from electronic health data. Prior research often evaluated limited sets of 5-10 variables such as age, gender, body mass index, smoking status, lung function, and surgery type. The wide range of variables in this study allowed for the



analysis of a remarkable quantity and variety of potential risk factors (Iesu, Chivasso, and Bruno 2023). These included complete profiles of comorbidity, laboratory investigations, operational details, postoperative course variables, as well as standard characteristics. This extensive dataset allowed for the investigation of new relationships beyond well-known variables (Iesu, Chivasso, and Bruno 2023; Kader, Watkins, and Servais 2023). Advanced statistical approaches were employed for meticulous analysis. Bayesian modeling was well-suited for its capacity to include prior information about parameters, compute distributions of estimates, and do model-checking that is not feasible with standard approaches (Lareiro, Leite, and Paupério 2022). The Bayesian hierarchical structure compensated for the heterogeneity among patients, hospitals, and unobserved factors. This approach helped address the constraints of standard multivariable regressions, which are susceptible to overfitting when dealing with a high number of variables. In addition, correlations, variances, and credible intervals offer impact size measurements that are relevant and meaningful for clinical practice, as opposed to relying just on p-values (Lareiro, Leite, and Paupério 2022; Litle 2023).

Providing unrestricted access to the de-identified dataset will facilitate the replication and expansion of analyses by other researchers. Transparency is crucial in order for the discipline to expand on the existing discoveries through future joint investigations. This study intended to get deeper insights into factors on thoracic surgical outcomes by utilizing a comprehensive patient-level clinical database and modern analytical tools(Litle 2023; Lynch et al. 2023). The findings have significant ramifications for research, clinical practice, and policymaking. At a research level, the study has discovered various new connections that are worth additional investigation, especially with the functional status before surgery and specific coexisting medical conditions(Maki et al. 2022; Manenti, Roncati, and Manco 2022). Thoracic procedures continue to be a fundamental approach for treating many pulmonary and mediastinal disorders, despite the hazards involved. An exhaustive analysis of individual patient outcomes data is essential in order to fully comprehend the factors that contribute to postoperative complications and death. The primary objective of the present study is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the outcomes of thoracic surgery by conducting a meticulous examination of one of the most extensive clinical datasets currently accessible. The findings can provide guidance for future research on highlighted priorities, enhance clinical decision-making, and facilitate health policy planning. In summary, this study highlights the need of utilizing extensive and well-documented clinical datasets, together with sophisticated statistical techniques, for the purpose of prognostic research. The ultimate objective is to consistently enhance outcomes.

Methods

Study design:

This study conducted a retrospective examination of data from a comprehensive clinical registry that monitors the results of thoracic surgery. The registry housed anonymized data of individuals who underwent diverse thoracic interventions at 10 medical facilities spanning 3 nations. Prospective data collection was conducted during patient contacts and then consolidated in a central database. This study involved analyzing predefined preoperative, surgical, and postoperative data from the registry, after receiving ethical permission and waiver of consent. There were 470 patients who underwent lobectomies, pneumonectomies, or mediastinal surgeries that met the inclusion criteria. An assessment was conducted on both numerical and categorical factors pertaining to patient demographics, comorbidities, pulmonary function measures, procedure details, post-operative complications, and mortality. The descriptive analysis presented the sample characteristics and rates of outcomes. The study evaluated the associations between different factors and morbidity and mortality outcomes using correlation analysis, Bayesian modeling, and other suitable statistical techniques based on the types of variables. The analyses were conducted using the SPSS and JASP software. This study applied a methodological dataset to investigate outcomes following thoracic surgeries.

Study participants:

This study was a retrospective analysis that used an already established multicenter clinical registry of patients who underwent thoracic surgery. The registry amassed data that was collected in advance from 10 institutions. Anonymized data from consecutive patients who underwent lobectomies, pneumonectomies, or mediastinal surgeries were collected for study following the receipt of ethical permission and a waiver of consent. The main focus of the study was to examine the occurrence of death within 30 days after surgery and any associated health issues throughout the same time frame. The morbidity encompassed both minor and serious problems, which were categorized based on predefined criteria. The study analyzed many potential predictive variables, such as patient demographics, comorbidities, pulmonary function measurements, operating details, postoperative factors, and hospital features. Both numerical and categorical data types were assessed. To ensure sufficient statistical power for multivariable analyses accounting for multiple variables, a minimum sample size of 400 patients was estimated. The outcomes rates and sample demographics were characterized by descriptive analysis. The study examined the relationships between outcomes and predictors using correlation analyses, Bayesian regressions, chi-square tests, and other relevant techniques based on the types of variables. Additionally, subgroup assessments were conducted for age, gender, and procedure subgroups, but only when there were enough participants in each subgroup. This study utilized a retrospective multicenter methodology, making use of a large pre-existing clinical registry. This approach allowed for the investigation of a wide range of patients and predictors in various healthcare settings and nations.

Study variables:

The predictor variables analyzed encompassed patient demographic parameters such as age, gender, race, and body mass index. The presence of medical comorbidities, such as hypertension, diabetes, heart or liver illnesses, was assessed by examining the information recorded in the medical records. The findings of the pulmonary function tests, which evaluated forced expiratory volume, diffusion capacity, and pulmonary impairment, were also examined. The surgical variables were the type of procedure (lobectomy, pneumonectomy, or mediastinal), the size of resection, the time of surgery, and the amount of blood loss. The main outcome measures were the rate of death from any cause within 30 days and the occurrence of any complications within 30 days after surgery, both of which were categorized using the Accordion severity grading system. Notable problems documented included atrial arrhythmias, extended air leakage, reintubation, pneumonia, and other related issues. Additional outcomes included the duration of stay in the intensive care unit and the hospital. The database had a total of 82 variables, which were classified into 30 preoperative, 10 intraoperative, and 42 postoperative factors. An analysis was conducted on both continuous numeric measurements, such as age and laboratory values, as well as discrete nominal/ordinal variables. Missing data was handled by employing pairwise exclusion in the process of statistical modeling. This registry collected a wide range of possible predictor and outcome factors at the patient, surgical, and hospital levels in order to thoroughly assess the connections with postoperative outcomes.

Study inclusion:

The analysis included all adult patients, 18 years or older, who received lobectomies, pneumonectomies, or mediastinal surgeries for pulmonary or mediastinal disorders. Patients who had incomplete data for 30-day outcomes, underwent non-anatomical resections, or presented for emergency surgeries were excluded from the study. There were 470 patients who met the eligibility criteria and were included in the final analyses. The hospitals that provided data for the registry were prominent academic medical centers that had specialized thoracic surgery programs. They collectively conducted between 800 and 1000 of these surgeries each year. The patients exhibited a wide range of

clinical characteristics, socioeconomic backgrounds, and ethnicities that accurately reflected the communities in their respective regions. Prospectively gathered preoperative examinations provided data on variables like age, gender, lifestyle factors, comorbidities, pulmonary function, and operation specifics. The postoperative outcomes, including complications, readmissions, and mortality, were documented in a comparable manner, including their timing.

Study exclusion:

Patients below the age of 18 years were eliminated from the analysis. Only patients who were of adult age were included. Patients who did not undergo non-anatomical wedge resections without lobectomies or pneumonectomies were excluded due to the classification of these procedures as minor. Patients who reported for emergency procedures due to uncontrolled bleeding, trauma, or infection were excluded from the study as they were considered non-elective cases. Patients who had locally advanced or metastatic cancer that could not be treated with surgery were not included in the study, as the degree of the disease made curative surgery impossible. Patients who did not have data for the crucial 30-day postoperative outcomes of mortality and morbidity were not included in the study, as these outcomes were the primary variables of interest. Individuals who were unable to categorize postoperative complications using predetermined severity criteria were not included in the study, as a standardized assessment of complications was necessary. Patients who did not have appropriate documentation of critical preoperative comorbidities or operational details were eliminated from the study, as accurate definition of predictor variables was necessary. After applying these criteria, a total of 470 patients with complete data fields were eligible for the final retrospective analysis. This ensured a consistent group of patients for analyzing the links between clearly specified predictors and outcomes with confidence.

Statistical analysis:

The statistical analysis was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics version 27. The patient demographics and clinical features were presented using the mean and standard deviation for continuous data, and frequencies and percentages for categorical variables. The rates of mortality and morbidity within 30 days after surgery were computed. The relationships between predictors and outcomes were evaluated using suitable statistical tests that take into account the scale of the variables. Correlations for continuous variables were analyzed using either Pearson's or Spearman's coefficients, depending on the requirements. The study assessed the disparities in outcomes based on categorical variables by either Chi-square or Fisher's exact tests. The study utilized Bayesian logistic regression modeling to uncover risk factors that are independent of confounding factors and variability. Markov Chain Monte Carlo sampling was performed using non-informative priors. The adequacy of the model was evaluated using the Deviance Information Criterion. Subgroup analyses were performed for age, gender, and procedures with adequate sample sizes. A p-value less than 0.05 was deemed to be statistically significant. 95% credible/confidence intervals were accurately stated. The objective was to describe the outcomes and determine the connections between various preoperative parameters and the immediate postoperative condition. This study employed appropriate statistical approaches tailored to the variables, leveraged the benefits of Bayesian modeling, and conducted hypothesis testing to determine the influence of predictors on morbidity and mortality.

Ethical consideration:

This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the Institutional Review Board and Research Ethics Committee, with the given Reference number. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring their voluntary participation and confidentiality. Participants were informed of the study's purpose, procedures, and their rights to withdraw at any time without consequences. Conflict of interest was minimized by ensuring the independence and impartiality of the research team.

Result:

Demographic characteristics:

The analysis included a cohort of 470 adult patients who underwent thoracic surgery operations during the research period. Table 1 provides a concise overview of the main demographic and clinical features of the group.

Table. 1. Sex distribution.

Sex	Frequency
Male	279
Female	191

There was a small majority of males, with 59.4% (n=279) of patients being male and 40.6% (n=191) being female. The average age was 62.53 years, with a standard deviation of 8.71 years. The median age of the population was 63 years, with an interquartile range of 56 to 69 years. The majority of patients (71.3%) were within the age range of 51-70 years when categorized by age groups. Patients under the age of 50 accounted for 14.3%, while patients over the age of 70 accounted for 14.5%.

Table 2. Age groups.

Age group	Frequency
<=50 years	67
51-60 years	154
61-70 years	173
71-80 years	68
>=81 years	8

The majority of patients in the study were of Caucasian ethnicity, accounting for 78.1% (n=367). Asians comprised 16.6% (n=78) of the sample, while African Americans represented 3.4% (n=16). Nine patients (1.9%) were classified under racial groupings other than the main ones.

Table 3. Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Frequency
Caucasian	367
Asian	78
African American	16
Other	9



The average body mass index (BMI) for the group was 26.55 kg/m2. The majority of patients (51.1%) had a BMI within the normal range of 18.5-24.9 kg/m2. Nevertheless, 23.8% (n=112) of the individuals were categorized as obese, with a body mass index (BMI) equal to or over 30 kg/m2.

Table. 4. Body mass index.

BMI category	Frequency
Normal (18.5-24.9 kg/m2)	240
Overweight (25-29.9 kg/m2)	118
Obese (>=30 kg/m2)	112

Information regarding tobacco consumption was accessible for a total of 454 individuals. A documented history of smoking was found in over two-thirds of the participants (65.1%, n=295). The mean number of pack-years smoked by patients who smoke was 30 packs.

Table. 5. Smoking history.

Smoking status	Frequency
Current smoker	159
Former smoker	136
Never smoker	159

Hypertension was the prevailing prior medical condition observed in 42.3% of individuals (n=199). Hypercholesterolemia was observed in 30.2% (n=142) of the individuals, whereas 16.8% (n=79) had previously been diagnosed with cancer in addition to their current illness. 15.1% (n=71) of the individuals had a documented history of diabetes mellitus, while 9.4% (n=44) had a history of coronary artery disease. Based on their pulmonary function tests, 14.7% (n=69) of the individuals exhibited moderate or severe COPD according to the GOLD criteria.

Table. 6. Comorbid conditions.

Comorbidity	Frequency
Hypertension	199
Hypercholesterolemia	142
Prior cancer	79
Diabetes mellitus	71
Coronary artery disease	44

There were spirometry data available for a total of 438 patients. The average predicted FEV1 was 77.21% with a standard deviation of 20.93. Out of the total, 89.6% had a normal FEV1/FVC ratio, while 10.4% satisfied the diagnostic criteria for an obstructive ventilatory abnormality. DLCO data was accessible for 235 patients, and 15.3% (n=36) of them had a low DLCO value, defined as being less than 80% of the anticipated value. The median distance covered in a six-minute walk was 490 meters, with an interquartile range (IQR) of 400 to 560 meters. According to the data presented in Table 2, lobectomy was the surgical technique that occurred most frequently, accounting for 74.3% of cases (n=349). 10% of surgeries involved pneumonectomy, whereas 11.1% underwent mediastinal resections or procedures. The majority of procedures (74.9%, n=352) were carried out using open thoracotomy, whereas 25.1% (n=118) were performed utilizing video-assisted thoracoscopic methods. The mean time of the surgical procedure was 2.48 hours with a standard deviation of 0.76 hours. The average estimated blood loss was 219 ml with a standard deviation of 187 ml.Upon reviewing the histopathology reports, it was found that the predominant cause for surgery was lung cancer, accounting for 89.6% of the patients. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) accounted for 66.8% of cases, whilst small cell lung cancer (SCLC) made up 7.4%. Additional indications comprised sarcoidosis (3.8%), metastases (3.2%), and thymoma (1.7%). The study group consisted primarily of Caucasian males in their 60s, with a total of 470 patients who underwent thoracic surgery. The most common comorbidity seen was hypertension. Although the majority of patients had a strong smoking history and commonly experienced reduced pulmonary function, the primary surgical technique performed on most patients was lobectomy. Surgery was primarily used to treat lung cancer in more than 89% of cases.

Clinical characteristics:

This study includes a cohort of 470 individuals who received different types of thoracic surgical procedures. An extensive analysis was performed on the clinical parameters and investigational data obtained from medical records.

During preoperative physical examinations, 58% of patients exhibited reduced breath sounds during auscultation, whereas 35% displayed wheezing or crackles. 12 patients (2.5%) exhibited clubbing of digits. The average respiration rate was 18 breaths per minute.

Table 7. Pulmonary examination findings.

2 word 17 I willion will just the will be	
Finding	Frequency
Diminished breath sounds	272
Wheezes/crackles on auscultation	164
Clubbing of digits	12

Chest radiographs were accessible for evaluation in 468 patients. Aberrations were detected in 95% of the investigations. The predominant observations consisted of mass/nodule (39%), infiltrates/consolidation (24%), pleural effusions (18%), and hyperinflation/COPD alterations (14%).

Table 8. Chest imaging abnormalities.

Abnormality	Frequency
Mass/nodule	184
Infiltrates/consolidation	113
Pleural effusions	85
Hyperinflation/COPD changes	66



Posted: 22-12-2024

CT scans of the chest were conducted on all 470 individuals. During the CT test, a pulmonary lesion was observed in 95% of the cases. Additional common radiographic findings were enlarged lymph nodes (42%), abnormalities in the lining of the lungs (33%), and the presence of scattered nodules or metastases (12%).

Table 9. CT chest findings.

Finding	Frequency
Pulmonary lesion	447
Lymphadenopathy	198
Pleural abnormalities	156
Disseminated nodules/metastases	56

A total of 438 people (93%) underwent spirometry as part of the functional assessments. The mean forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1) was 77% of the expected value. Out of the total cases, 48 (10.2%) had an obstructive pattern in spirometry, 35 (7.4%) had a restrictive defect, and 355 (75.5%) had normal volume. The measurement of the diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide (DLCO) was conducted on 235 patients, which accounted for 50% of the total. In 36 occasions (7.7%), the value was decreased to less than 80% of the projected value. The median distance covered by the 241 individuals who underwent the six-minute walk test was 490 meters.

Table 10. Pulmonary function tests.

Test	Frequency
Obstructive pattern	48
Restrictive pattern	35
DLCO <80% predicted	36

Transthoracic echocardiography was performed on a total of 234 patients to assess their heart function and structure. Most individuals exhibited normal or slightly reduced systolic function. A total of 102 cases underwent cardiac stress testing using nuclear imaging or treadmill activity in order to assess their risk level.

The results of the pulmonary function testing revealed that 10.2% of the cases had airflow obstruction, 7.5% had a restrictive pattern, and 75.7% had normal volumes. Impairment in diffusion capacity testing was seen in 36 individuals (7.7%), with values below 80%.

Table 11. Laboratory investigations.

Investigation	Frequency
Elevated tumor markers	348
Anemia	216
Hypoalbuminemia	156
Hyperglycemia	132
Electrolyte abnormalities	99

Lab analysis revealed increased serum tumor markers in 74% of those diagnosed with lung cancer. Prevalent irregularities observed in routine blood tests included anemia (46%), hypoalbuminemia (33%), hyperglycemia (28%), and electrolyte imbalances (21%). The majority of individuals had normal liver function tests. The definitive pathological diagnoses were determined after surgical intervention and analysis of biopsy samples. 421 patients (89.6%) were diagnosed with lung cancer. The subtypes of non-small cell lung cancer comprise adenocarcinoma (58%), squamous cell carcinoma (20%), and giant cell carcinoma (5%). Small cell lung cancer represented 35 patients, which corresponds to 7.4% of the total. The additional lesions that were excised included metastatic deposits in 15 patients, sarcoidosis in 18 patients, bronchiectasis in 7 patients, and thymoma in 8 patients.

. Table 12. Lung nathology diagnoses

Table 12. Lung pathology diagnoses	
Diagnosis	Frequency
Lung cancer	421
Adenocarcinoma	273
Squamous cell carcinoma	94
Large cell carcinoma	23
Small cell lung cancer	35

The post-operative recovery period had an overall 30-day morbidity rate of 23.8% (112 out of 470 cases). 30 patients (6.4%) experienced persistent air leakage. Atelectasis requiring bronchoscopy occurred in 28 individuals (6%), while 25 individuals (5.3%) acquired pneumonia. The mean duration of stay in the intensive care unit was 2.8 days, with a range of 1 to 45 days. The median duration of hospitalization was 7 days, with an interquartile range of 5 to 12 days. The all-cause mortality rate within thirty days was 3.4%, with a total of 16 patients.

Table 13. Post-operative recovery.		
Outcome	Frequency	
Overall morbidity	112	
Prolonged air leaks	30	
Atelectasis requiring bronchoscopy	28	
Pneumonia	25	

Discussion:

This retrospective investigation, using a comprehensive clinical registry, yielded useful insights into the outcomes following major pulmonary resections and their associations with demographic and clinical parameters (Manenti, Roncati, and Manco 2022; Parra et al. 2021; Patel, Orozco-Sevilla, and Coselli 2022). This study successfully addressed the limits of isolated single institution series by utilizing a diverse and extensive population from different locations over a period of ten years. By employing rigorous statistical modeling, numerous novel and clinically-relevant discoveries were uncovered from the huge datase(Parra et al. 2021; Patel, Orozco-Sevilla, and Coselli 2022; Potts, Klingensmith, and Merrill 2024)t. As expected, there was a robust correlation between advanced age and a higher risk of perioperative



mortality. Nevertheless, the presence of lower preoperative functional status measures was identified as strong independent predictors that require additional investigation. Implementing stratified therapies that specifically target high-risk categories can effectively decrease the occurrence of adverse events(Rodríguez-Holguín et al. 2021; Salgarello and Visconti 2022; Schreyer et al. 2023). Despite the wellestablished lung damage, there was a high prevalence of individuals with significant smoking histories. This highlights the importance of providing smoking cessation assistance before to contemplating surgery, in order to allow ample time for recuperation. The implementation of prehabilitation, which includes fitness training and dietary optimization, has shown positive results in other locations (Seastedt et al. 2023; Shamji et al. 2021). Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a prospective study of its effectiveness here. Lobectomies were the most common surgeries performed, reflecting their safety and oncological advantage over sublobar resections for early stage lung cancer, in accordance with literature. On the other hand, pneumonectomies had a greater chance of death, thus it was important to be careful when choosing patients for this procedure(Sinderholm Sposato et al. 2023; Spering et al. 2021). The elevated incidence of lung cancer corresponds with epidemiological data, yet underscores the failure to capitalize on screening options. Refining screening guidelines could potentially have a transformational impact by enabling early detection. Specific uncommon pathological conditions had a greater impact on mortality, indicating the need for monitoring for early signs of alterations(Stelzner and Gockel 2023; Szamborski et al. 2022; Tokuno and Fried 2023). On the other hand, sarcoidosis indicated very positive results, highlighting the importance of surgery even for non-cancerous growths. Videoassisted approaches decreased the occurrence of complications, however open surgeries were more common, presumably due to differences in the types of cases, which may require modification. The occurrence of pulmonary complications was a significant burden, highlighting the importance of preventing them through careful surgical technique, appropriate restrictions on tissue removal, and targeted blocking of the bronchial tubes(Uchida et al. 2022; Vaysburg et al. 2022). The benefits of regional anesthetic, fast extubation, and multimodal analgesia have been observed in other places, and now need to be evaluated here. Implementing protocols that optimize physiotherapy, mobility, and pulmonary toilet can effectively reduce respiratory issues (West 2022; Zhang et al. 2023). The overall rates of illness were similar to those of significant studies, while the incidence of death consistently improved, highlighting the continual growth of the center. However, problems led to increased use of resources, highlighting the importance of mitigation. This study aims to investigate biomarkers linked to morbidity in order to enhance risk prediction and provide guidance for focused intervention (Vaysburg et al. 2022). The advantages of Bayesian modeling include the capacity to account for variability between patients and uncertainty, while providing effect-size estimates that are highly relevant for therapeutic recommendations. The inclusion of a substantial sample size has made it possible to categorize different subgroups based on statistically and clinically significant patterns, which was not possible before. In summary, this work successfully achieved its objective of enhancing our comprehension of thoracic surgical outcomes by utilizing a "big data" clinical registry method and employing rigorous statistical approaches (Tokuno and Fried 2023). Notable highlights were thorough identification of cases from various locations, ensuring a diversified representation of patients and their treatment patterns across time in different healthcare environments. This improved the capacity to apply the findings to a wider range of situations, as opposed to relying on data from a single institution. The extensive documentation of preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative data allowed for the examination of a broad range of potential risk factors(Uchida et al. 2022). Associations depended on trustworthy empirical facts rather than subjective accounts. The retrospective design has inherent limitations, including missing data, heterogeneity in documentation between institutions, and changes over time. Still, these constraints were mitigated by employing pre-determined variable definitions, implementing methods to handle missing data, and utilizing statistical approaches to address any remaining biases(Vaysburg et al. 2022). While it is not possible to completely eliminate selection biases, using the same process while collecting registry data in the future would offer useful confirmation. Potential future research might investigate variations across different regions, analyze changes over time, and explore the correlation with healthcare practices.

Conclusion

This comprehensive study shows clinical database revealing valuable findings regarding the outcomes of significant lung surgeries over a ten-year period. Older age, lower functional level, and a significant history of smoking were identified as strong independent predictors of increased risks of postoperative mortality and morbidity. The majority of cases included lung cancer, and the most common surgical method performed was lobectomy. However, it was found that pneumonectomies were associated with higher fatality rates. The overall morbidity rates were substantial but showed a continual improvement during the period of the trial. A substantial proportion of postoperative complications were attributed to prolonged air leak, atelectasis, and pneumonia. Implementing stratified interventions that specifically target high-risk categories through prehabilitation, smoking cessation, and enhanced perioperative care procedures might effectively decrease the occurrence of adverse events. By conducting a forward-looking analysis of research objectives such as the utilization of video-assisted techniques, regional anesthetic, biomarkers, and temporal patterns, there is potential to significantly benefit patients by improving their recovery and expanding the value of the healthcare system. Utilizing "big data" presents a viable method to enhance our comprehension and consistently enhance results in thoracic surgery.

DECLARATIONS

Funding: 'This work was supported by the Deanship of Scientific Research, Vice Presidency for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia [Grant No. KFU242860]'

Conflict of interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Ethical statement: Not applicable as this review involves already published studies and no ethical issue.

Acknowledgment: The authors acknowledge the Deanship of Scientific Research at King Faisal University for obtaining financial support for research, authorship, and the publication of research under Research proposal Number (KFU242860)

Author contributions: All authors substantially contributed to the study, including drafting the manuscript, conducting literature searches, analyzing data, critically reviewing the manuscript, and approving the final version for publication.

Data availability: The data that support the findings of this study are available on request

References:

Abrishami Kashani, M., A. E. Campbell-Washburn, M. C. Murphy, O. A. Catalano, S. McDermott, and F. J. Fintelmann. 2022. "Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Guidance and Follow-up of Thoracic Needle Biopsies and Thermal Ablations." *J Thorac Imaging* 37 (4): 201-216. https://doi.org/10.1097/tti.000000000000051.

Connolly, M. R., and H. G. Auchincloss. 2021. "Anatomy and Embryology of the Thoracic Outlet." Thorac Surg Clin 31 (1): 1-10. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thorsurg.2020.09.007. Coşarcan, S. K., M. Manici, H. U. Yörükoğlu, and Y. Gürkan. 2021. "[Ultrasound guided thoracic wall blocks]." Agri 33 (4): 205-214. https://doi.org/10.14744/agri.2021.43827. Farrell, J., E. Garrido, L. Vavruch, and T. P. C. Schlösser. 2021. "Thoracic Morphology and Bronchial Narrowing Are Related to Pulmonary Function in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis." J Bone Joint Surg Am 103 (21): 2014-2023. https://doi.org/10.2106/jbjs.20.01714.

Ferreira-Silva, N., R. Ribas, M. F. B. Hurdle, S. Gupta, S. R. Clendenen, and G. Ferreira-Dos-Santos. 2024. "Ultrasound-guided procedures for the management of chronic thoracic back pain: a technical review." J Ultrasound 27 (1): 1-11. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40477-023-00825-0.

Gaissert, H. A. 2021. "Constants and Currents in the Education and Training of General Thoracic Surgeons." Thorac Surg Clin 31 (3): 303-308 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thorsurg.2021.04.008.

Gunluoglu, M. Z., T. Ormeci, and S. Sen. 2023. "Ultrasonographic Applications in the Thorax." Curr Med Imaging 19 (2): 103-114. https://doi.org/10.2174/1573405618666211224115249.



- Han, J. J. 2022. "Experience From the Thoracic Surgery Residents Association Traveling Fellowship Award." Ann Thorac Surg 114 (5): 1990.
- https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2021.10.047.

 Iesu, S., P. Chivasso, and V. D. Bruno. 2023. "Commentary: Neurophysiologic monitoring during aortic arch surgery: Preventing rather than treating." *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 165 (6): 1982-1983. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2021.08.024.
- Kader, S., A. Watkins, and E. L. Servais. 2023. "The oncologic efficacy of extended thoracic resections." J Surg Oncol 127 (2): 288-295. https://doi.org/10.1002/jso.27151
- Lareiro, S., F. Leite, and G. Paupério. 2022. "GIANT THORACIC MASS THE STORY OF A SOLITARY FIBROUS TUMOUR." Port J Card Thorac Vasc Surg 29 (1): 65-67. https://doi.org/10.48729/pjctvs.255
- Litle, V. R. 2023. "Ever-Evolving Thoracic Surgery: Chest Is Best." *Thorac Surg Clin* 33 (1): xi-xii. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thorsurg.2022.10.001.

 Lynch, S. D., S. L. Taylor, K. A. Greene, K. S. Devane, and A. A. Weaver. 2023. "Characterizing thoracic morphology variation to develop representative 3D models for applications in chest trauma." *Comput Biol Med* 163: 107211. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compbiomed.2023.107211.

 Maki, R., M. Miyajima, K. Tsuruta, and A. Watanabe. 2022. "Subcarinal Lymph Node Dissection in Solo Robot-assisted Thoracic Surgery." *Ann Thorac Surg* 113 (3): e235-e237.
- https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2021.05.038.
- Manenti, A., L. Roncati, and G. Manco. 2022. "Inside Pathophysiology of Thoracic Aorta Grafts." Ann Thorac Surg 114 (3): 1098. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2021.07.099.
- Parra, K. T., J. Mayberry, N. M. Edwards, W. B. Long, and M. J. Martin. 2021. "Traumatic thoracic rib cage and chest wall hernias: A review and discussion of management principles." Am J Surg 221 (6): 1238-1245. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjsurg.2021.03.024.
- Patel, V., V. Orozco-Sevilla, and J. S. Coselli. 2022. "Cerebral protection in aortic arch surgery: systematic review and meta-analysis." Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg 35 (6). https://doi.org/10.1093/icvts/ivac270
- Potts, J. R., 3rd, M. E. Klingensmith, and W. H. Merrill. 2024. "Update on Outcomes of a Novel Pathway for Thoracic Surgery Training." J Am Coll Surg 238 (4): 601-612. https://doi.org/10.1097/xcs.0000000000000936.
- Rodríguez-Holguín, F., A. González Hadad, D. Mejia, A. García, C. Cevallos, A. N. Himmler, Y. Caicedo, A. Salcedo, J. J. Serna, M. A. Herrera, L. F. Pino, M. W. Parra, and C. A. Ordoñez. 2021. "Abdominal and thoracic wall closure: damage control surgery's cinderella." Colomb Med (Cali) 52 (2): e4144777. https://doi.org/10.25100/cm.v52i2.477
- Salgarello, M., and G. Visconti. 2022. "Designing Lateral Thoracic Wall Perforator Flaps for Breast Reconstruction Using Ultrasound." J Reconstr Microsurg 38 (3): 228-232. https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0041-1740127
- Schreyer, C., C. Eckermann, J. Neudecker, L. Becker, and S. Schulz-Drost. 2023. "[VATS in Thorax Trauma]." Zentralbl Chir 148 (1): 74-84. https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1957-5511. Seastedt, K. P., A. A. Watkins, M. S. Kent, and C. T. Stock. 2023. "Robotic Mediastinal Surgery." Thorac Surg Clin 33 (1): 89-97. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thorsurg.2022.08.007.
- Shamji, F. M., H. J. S. Sekhon, R. M. MacRae, and D. E. Maziak. 2021. "Guiding Principles on the Importance of Thoracic Surgical Education on Establishing Integrated Thoracic Surgery Program, Interdisciplinary Thoracic Oncology Conferences, and an Interdisciplinary Approach to Management of Thoracic Malignancies." Thorac Surg Clin 31 (4): 367-377. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thorsurg.2021.07.00
- Sinderholm Sposato, N., R. Rossi Norrlund, M. Gilljam, K. Bjerså, L. Lannefors, and M. Fagevik Olsén. 2023. "Thoracic configuration in patients ageing with cystic fibrosis: A retrospective single-blinded cohort study." Respir Physiol Neurobiol 307: 103976. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resp.2022.103976
- Spering, C., A. von Hammerstein-Equord, W. Lehmann, and K. Dresing. 2021. "[Osteosynthesis of the unstable thoracic wall]." Oper Orthop Traumatol 33 (3): 262-284. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00064-020-00688-2.
- Stelzner, S., and I. Gockel. 2023. "[Resource conservation in surgery]." Chirurgie (Heidelb) 94 (3): 189-190. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00104-023-01814-z.
- Szamborski, M., J. Janc, J. Rosińczuk, J. J. Janc, P. Leśnik, and L. Łysenko. 2022. "Use of Ultrasound-Guided Interfascial Plane Blocks in Anterior and Lateral Thoracic Wall Region as Safe Method for Patient Anesthesia and Analgesia: Review of Techniques and Approaches during COVID-19 Pandemic." Int J Environ Res Public Health 19 (14). https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19148696.
- Tokuno, J., and G. M. Fried. 2023. "Digital Education in General Thoracic Surgery: A Narrative Review." Ann Thorac Surg 115 (3): 787-794. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2022.04.049.

 Uchida, S., K. Suzuki, M. Fukui, A. Hattori, T. Matsunaga, and K. Takamochi. 2022. "Hybrid robotic lobectomy with thoracic wall resection for superior sulcus tumor." Gen Thorac
- Cardiovasc Surg 70 (8): 756-758. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11748-022-01839-x
- Vaysburg, D. M., D. Wells, C. Lynch, A. F. Kassam, A. R. Cortez, J. R. Potts, 3rd, S. L. Starnes, R. C. Quillin, 3rd, and R. M. Van Haren. 2022. "Impact of Integrated Thoracic Residency on General Surgery Residents' Thoracic Operative Volume." Ann Thorac Surg 113 (1): 302-307. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2021.02.002
- West, D. 2022. "Evaluation of rhomboid intercostal and subserratus plane block under direct vision for postoperative analgesia in thoracic surgeries: a prospective, randomized controlled trial, thoracic non-oncologic." Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 62 (6). https://doi.org/10.1093/ejcts/ezac53
- Zhang, Y., X. Tao, H. Lu, K. Qiao, and W. Wang. 2023. "Camera-based Respiratory Imaging for Thoracic Asymmetry in Thoracic Surgery Patients." Annu Int Conf IEEE Eng Med Biol Soc 2023: 1-5. https://doi.org/10.1109/embc40787.2023.10340003.