



11th Central European Lung Cancer Conference (CELCC)



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11th Central European Lung Cancer
Conference and
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**12 – 14 June 2008
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Ljubljana hosted this traditional event for the second time and this year it took place during Slovenia's EU presidency. The theme of the Conference has been selected in line with the current EU guidelines in the field. The EU strategies stress the importance of preventing and controlling cancer in order to reduce its great burden on the population, and lung cancer is the leading cause of death among malignant diseases. During the Conference all aspects of lung cancer, from early detection and diagnosis to different treatment options in the form of lectures, discussions and poster presentations were exchanged with 250 participants from 24 countries. In addition to experts from central European countries, other experts in the field contributed to the high scientific level of the Conference; these included Robert Pirker, Martin Filipits, Pieter Postmus, Rolf Stahel, Nicolas Thatcher, Johan Vansteenkiste, Gyula Ostoros, Paul de Leyn, Petr Zatloukal and others. The honorary lecture, entitled Past and Future of CELCC, as well as the lecture Management of side effects of targeted therapies were presented by Jean Klastersky.

The program started with an epidemiological survey of lung cancer in Slovenia, European countries and worldwide. The Ministry of Health of Slovenia participated in the Conference program by a presentation of anti-smoking legislation implemented in Slovenia and European countries. The positive effects of the Slovene law banning smoking in all public places (including pubs and restaurants) that was put in place in August 2007 were presented.

Since lung cancer is often diagnosed late, in an advanced stage, options currently available for early detection were presented. These include: spiral computed tomography; bronchoscopic techniques for diagnosis of early stage bronchial cancer, such as autofluorescence bronchoscopy and videobronchoscopy; narrow-band imaging; computer-assisted analysis of sputum; and many other diagnostic and prognostic molecular, biochemical and genetic lung cancer markers.



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As the choice of treatment modality largely depends on the histological pattern of the tumor, as well as on the extent of the disease, histological diagnosis and staging of lung cancer were discussed. There has been an increasing interest in endoscopic, bronchoscopic and esophagoscopy techniques and in refined surgical endoscopic procedures, mediastinoscopy, mediastinotomy, biopsy of all mediastinal lymph nodes and staging using ultrasound. A new, improved system of lung cancer staging was presented.

Chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery for non-small cell and small cell lung cancer were given special attention. There is a tendency in lung cancer treatment to utilize a combined approach, even for patients with earlier-stage non-small cell cancer.

The treatment for early-stage non-small cell carcinoma is surgical resection. Thoracic surgical procedures using a video camera are promising, and patient-friendly treatment options have therefore been increasingly used.

The epidemiology of asbestos exposure in the region and treatment options for pleural mesothelioma were discussed in a special session.

A separate very important session was dedicated to supportive and palliative care, nutritional support during treatments as well as to the issues of anemia, dyspnea management, psychological support and home care of lung cancer patients.

At the Conference the latest advances in the treatment of lung cancer, previously presented at the conference of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and at the 1st European Lung Cancer Conference, were summarized. The two meetings were held shortly before the 11th CELCC.

During his honorary lecture, Professor Klasterky rhetorically asked his listeners: "Why are there so many conferences sequentially addressing the same disease in the era of all the possibilities of modern information technology? A good reason for this would be if at these conferences, regional problems could be identified and close cooperation between experts of the region established.

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