

## Abstract

**Introduction:** According to the latest statistical and epidemiological studies in Iran, cancers after the cardiovascular disease and accident, is the third cause of mortality. Among that, lung cancer, is one of common cancers in worldwide and is considered one of five major cancers in Iran, The incidence is increasing. Appropriate information about the epidemiology of this cancer in certain geographic areas, and identifying risk factors will help for treatment and screening of high risk groups.

**Materials and Methods:** In this descriptive cross-sectional study are distinct in two major groups. In the first group, all patients referred to Imam Khomeini Hospital of Ardabil from May 2009 to May 2011 the center has been undergoing bronchoscopy and Pathology reports for primary cancer of the lung have been positive. The second group, included patients which during our study, were named in Ardabil cancer registry center with diagnosis of primary lung cancer and they had been sent to the pathology samples in other centers. The date list was prepared for each group separately completing the list data and entering into SPSS.v.16 statistical analysis program, and we have analyzed.

**Results:** In this study, a total of 124 patients diagnosed with lung cancer were studied in 98 patients (79%) in group I and 26 patients (21%) were in the second group. Superiority of the male gender and in the first group (82.7%) and in all patients (82.3% respectively). Average age of the first group  $64.09 \pm 9.44$  and the average age of all patients  $64.23 \pm 9.99$ . 53 of patients in the first group (54.10%) were urban. 89 patients of the first group (90.81%), had a history of smoking (mean  $38.67 \pm 25.70$  pack of cigarettes per year) and 34 patients from the first group (34.7%) had a history of opioid abuse and 17 patients in the first group (17.3%) had a positive family history of cancer. The most common chief complaint of first group for visiting a doctor was bloody sputum in 32 cases (32.7%) and the most common symptoms in patients of this group was chronic cough in 83 patients (84.7%). Right upper lobe (RUL) with 27 (27.64%) was the most common site of diseases in bronchoscopy of the first group patients. SCC, with 76 cases (61.3%) in all of patients had the most common form of malignancy. Analysis of the results showed a significant interaction between age and type of pathology is malignant lesions ( $P = 0.011$ ). However,

there was no significant association between sex and pathology of malignant lesions ( $P = 0.135$ ).

**Conclusions:** This study shows that unlike developed countries and other internal studies, squamous cell carcinoma is the most common in lung cancer patients and adenocarcinoma is less common. Smoking is the main risk factor for lung cancer. Lung cancer is seen in Men 4.6 times more than women, however, it has a close relative in findings of developed countries. Lesion in the upper lobe of the right lung is the most common site which is involved and is seen in bronchoscopy. Other findings are largely consistent with results from studies in developed countries.

**Key words:** Lung cancer, epidemiology, risk factor