

Case report

The treatment of a patient suffering from a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm and inoperative lung tumor – case report and review of literature

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A simultaneous case of abdominal aortic aneurysm and lung cancer occurs rarely in clinical practice (fewer than 1% of all cases treated). Treating patients with a simultaneous ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm and inoperable lung cancer still arouses a great deal of controversy throughout the world.

A ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm poses immediate danger to the patient's life. Several authors express the opinion that in case of a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm and inoperative lung cancer life-saving surgery should not be undertaken, and state that the doctor should let the patient die with dignity.

In the following article we present the case of an 84-year-old patient who, having been diagnosed earlier with an inoperative lung tumor, underwent surgery because of a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. We also present a review of literature concerning this issue and discusses its ethical and legal aspects.

Key words: ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, lung tumor, inoperable, treatment, ethical and legal problems

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