

## Small-cell lung cancer: an unusual therapeutic approach with more than 10-year overall survival. Case report and review of the literature

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### ABSTRACT

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Small-cell lung cancer is the most aggressive lung cancer, with a dismal prognosis. The authors present a case report of a patient with limited-stage small-cell lung cancer who underwent a thoracotomy for diagnostic purposes, with the diagnosis being made after surgical excision. Combination chemotherapy remains the cornerstone of treatment for both limited and extensive disease. Radiotherapy has been established as an adjunct to chemotherapy in limited-stage disease, while in extensive-stage disease it is mostly reserved for the treatment of brain metastases. As for surgery, the potential benefits of resection are predominantly seen in patients who present with a solitary pulmonary nodule. Since small-cell lung cancer becomes highly resistant to chemotherapy, second-line chemotherapeutic schemes are used for disease progression, with topotecan being the highlighted agent. Despite the unusual therapeutic approach, where surgery was preferred over the standard diagnostic and staging procedures, the patient's more than ten years' survival makes this case presentation a very interesting one.

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