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Reply to the Letter to the Editor

Reply to Rogers

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Thank you for your comments regarding the article on 'Early and long term complaints following video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery: evaluation in 173 patients'.

The purpose of our article was the assessment of early and long term pain after video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS), time of incapacity for work and patient satisfaction with scar cosmetics. We found an impressively high number of patients with a very early recovery and rapid reintegration into the working process after VATS.

However, as you pointed out there is a significant number

of patients with long term complaints after VATS. Approximately 10% had moderate to severe pain at 3 months and 5% at 1 year. We considered this information as interesting for physicians and especially important for counselling patients before a VATS procedure. In our article we did not state that chronic postthoracoscopy pain is significantly lower compared to open thoracotomy. This could only be assessed in a prospective randomized study.

In this regard we fully agree.

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