

Cancer Surgery Thoracotomy (Incision into the chest)

Health Region	Patients Completed	Actual Patient Waits for Procedures Performed 01-Jun-2011 to 30-Nov-2011					Longer than 6 months	Patients Waiting on 30-Nov-2011
		Within 3 weeks	4-6 weeks	7 weeks- 3 months	4-6 months	6 months		
Saskatoon	53	85%	13%	0%	2%	0%	<5	
Regina Qu'Appelle	27	96%	4%	0%	0%	0%	<5	
Total[†]	80	89%	10%	0%	1%	0%	2	

[†] 90% of cases were performed within 24 days (3.4 weeks).

Notes

- This procedure is performed by thoracic or cardiothoracic surgeons. These surgeons are listed under cardiovascular surgery in Regina and general surgery in Saskatoon.
- A thoracotomy is an incision into a chest wall to gain access to the chest cavity. The most common cancer to require a thoracotomy is lung cancer. *
- Cancer surgery data is based on procedures performed in hospital operating rooms. 73% of all thoracotomies performed in operating rooms over this time period were categorized as cancer surgeries. Only cancer surgeries are included in this table.
- The data includes procedures that are performed for both invasive and slower growing cancers. 98% of thoracotomies reported as cancer cases were categorized as invasive with a target time frame of three weeks and the rest were categorized as slower growing cancers with a target time frame of three months. Emergency procedures and procedures performed for routine screening or scheduled follow-up are excluded. Some further work has to be done to ensure that the cancer categories are being consistently interpreted.
- Time periods where patients specify that they are unavailable for surgery are subtracted from the wait time.
- Postponed cases are included, regardless of whether the reason for postponement is patient or system-related.
- The results are based on the January 1, 2012 refresh of the Saskatchewan Surgical Patient Registry data mart and are subject to minor changes as data is added or corrected.

*<http://www.surgeryencyclopedia.com/St-Wr/Thoracotomy.html>