

Supplementary data

Table 4. Description of complications of surgery for metastatic spinal cord compression in 15 of 69 patients registered within 30 days after surgery (patients may have had more than one complication)

Complications	n	Survival (months)
Systemic		
Pulmonary		
Pneumonia	3	1.2 ^a , 51 ^b , and 73 ^c , died
Embolism	1	63 ^c , died
Respiratory failure	1	3.5 ^d , died
Septicemia	3	1.2 ^e and 31 ^c , died; and 51 ^{b,R} , alive
Local		
Superficial wound infection		
infection	4	1.2 ^e , 6.5 ^d , 29 ^{b,R} , and 73 ^{c,R} , died
CSF leak	2	16 ^f and 73 ^{c,R} , died
Wound dehiscence	4	8.4 ^{d,R} , 11 ^d , 15 ^f , and 29 ^{b,R} , died
Wound hematoma	1	51 ^{b,R} , alive
Epidural hematoma	1	2.7 ^{c,R} , died

n: number of patients, and for each respective patient the number of months of survival (either until death or still alive) are given in the right-hand column.

^{a-f}Superscripts refer to the primary tumor diagnosis: ^a kidney cancer, ^b myeloma, ^c prostate cancer, ^d cancer of unknown primary tumor (CUP), ^e lung cancer, ^f lymphoma.

^R Revised: in all cases, local surgical wound revision was performed.

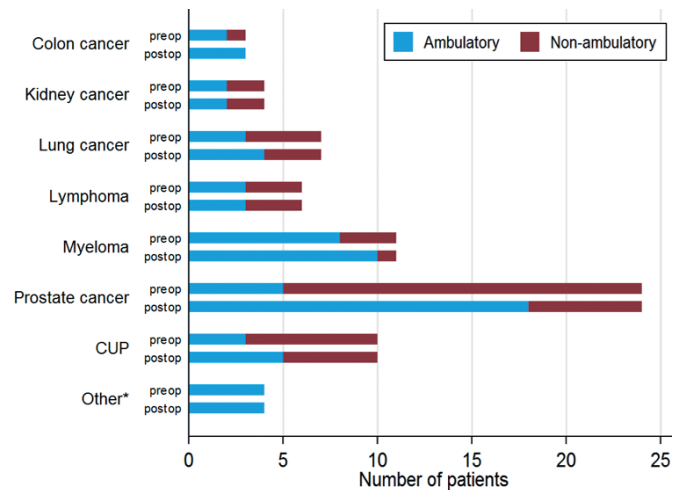


Figure 1. Neurological evaluation according to the primary tumor diagnosis: ambulatory status before surgery (preop) and 1 month after surgery (postop). * Other tumors: breast cancer, thyroid cancer, sarcoma, and epithelioid mesothelioma.

Table 5. Histological diagnoses compared with final tumor diagnoses

Histological diagnosis of bone biopsy	n	Tumor type (n): the final diagnosis based on postoperative diagnostic workup
Adenocarcinoma	13	CUP (5), prostate cancer (4), colorectal cancer (3), lung cancer (1)
Undifferentiated carcinoma	5	Lung cancer (2), epithelioid mesothelioma (1), prostate cancer (1), CUP (1)
Low differentiated carcinoma	5	CUP (2), prostate cancer (1), breast cancer (1), kidney cancer (1)
Myeloma/plasmocytoma	9	Myeloma/plasmocytoma (9)
Prostate cancer	18	Prostate cancer 18
B-cell lymphoma	5	Lymphoma (5)
Squamous cell carcinoma	2	CUP (1), lung cancer (1)
Low differentiated papillary carcinoma	1	Lung cancer (1)
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	1	Lymphoma (1)
Small cell carcinoma	1	Lung cancer (1)
Clear cell carcinoma	3	Kidney cancer (2), CUP (1)
Small cell sarcoma	1	Sarcoma (1)
Papillary adenocarcinoma	1	Thyroid cancer (1)
Inconclusive	4	Myeloma/plasmocytoma (2), lung cancer (1), kidney cancer (1)