Table 1 Characteristics of the 40 patients with NSCLC.

preoperative serum prealbumin level

Variables high low *p*

Number 28 12

Age (years) 71.0±8.3 71.7±10.5 0.82

Gender

 Male 19 9 0.94

 Female 9 3

Pathological stage

 IA+IB 23 4 0.02

 IIA+IIB 2 2

 IIIA+IIIB 3 6

Histological type

 Adenocarcinoma 17 7 0.83

 Squamous cell ca. 11 5

Prealbumin (mg/dl)

 Preoperative 28.9±4.7 19.3±3.8

 POD7 18.8±4.8 14.9±3.8 0.02

Preoperative serum prealbumin level: high; ≧23 mg/dl, low; < 23 mg/dl, POD: postoperative days