

# Thymic carcinoma

Thymoma and thymic carcinoma are diseases in which malignant (cancer) cells form on the outside surface of the thymus. The thymus, a small organ that lies in the upper chest under the breastbone, is part of the lymph system. It makes white blood cells, called lymphocytes, that protect the body against infections.

The diagnosis of thymic carcinoma is still difficult, and this disease has a tragically rapid progression if when discovered during follow-up of other diseases. An innovative modality for the early detection of thymic carcinoma is needed in modern medical society <sup>1)</sup>.

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Thompson EM, Sather MD, Reyes CA, Long DJ. Intracranial [leptomeningeal metastases](#) from thymic carcinoma: case report and review. Surg Neurol. 2007 Aug;68(2):233-8. doi: 10.1016/j.surneu.2006.08.079. Epub 2007 May 29. PMID: 17537485.

<sup>1)</sup>

Uramoto H, Takiguchi T, Koizumi T, Tanimoto A, Hayashi R, Nakazawa Y, Ito KI, Nakada M, Hirono Y, Nishino Y, Yano S. Multi-institutional survey of thymic carcinoma patients in Hokushin region. J Cancer Res Clin Oncol. 2021 May 8. doi: 10.1007/s00432-021-03620-8. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33963906.

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