

21 Hodgkin's disease

Summary

When compared with other cancer sites, relative survival after diagnosis of Hodgkin's disease is high. During 1992–1997, relative survival one year after diagnosis was 92.0% for males and 93.1% for females. Five-year relative survival was 82.6% for males and 84.4% for females (Table 21.1). Survival ten years after diagnosis was 74.2% for males and 77.3% for females in 1987–1991, the most recent period for which ten-year relative survival data are available (Figure 21.2; Tables 21.2 and 21.3).

Between 1982–1986 and 1992–1997, Hodgkin's disease relative survival increased significantly. Five-year relative survival increased from 74.1% to 82.6% for males and from 73.8% to 84.4% for females. There was no significant change one year after diagnosis for males, whereas for females, relative survival after one year increased from 87.0% to 93.1% (Figure 21.2; Tables 21.2 and 21.3).

Five-year relative survival was higher for those diagnosed before 30 years of age. Relative survival was highest for males aged 5–9 years (96.1%) and for females aged 10–19 years (95.6%). As age increased, relative survival decreased. Relative survival for males aged 60–69 years was 21.8% and for females aged 60–69 years was 23.4% (Figure 21.3; Table 21.1).

For individual age groups, there were no significant changes between 1982–1986 and 1992–1997 in five-year relative survival for most age groups. However, there was a significant increase in relative survival for males aged 0–4 years and 5–9 years (Figure 21.3; Tables 21.5 and 21.6).

Table 21.1: Hodgkin's disease: number of new cases and deaths, and five-year relative survival proportions, by age at diagnosis and sex, Australia, 1992–1997

Age	New cases		Deaths		5-year relative survival (%)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0–4 years	184	151	12	8	95.7	95.1
5–9 years	265	274	14	21	96.1	92.4
10–19 years	211	189	28	7	87.9	95.6
20–29 years	169	90	19	13	88.5	86.6
30–39 years	107	65	34	17	68.5	77.9
40–49 years	134	93	68	39	56.3	62.0
50–59 years	94	93	59	55	51.1	52.6
60–69 years	32	40	28	33	21.8	23.4
70–99 years	2	1	2	0	*	*
All ages	1,198	996	264	193	82.6	84.4

* Interpretation difficult due to statistical instability. The instability in this age/sex/site group may be due to the survival model's handling a combination of small number of cases/deaths and or unstable background survival patterns resulting in invalid estimates. These results are therefore not presented here.

Incidence and mortality

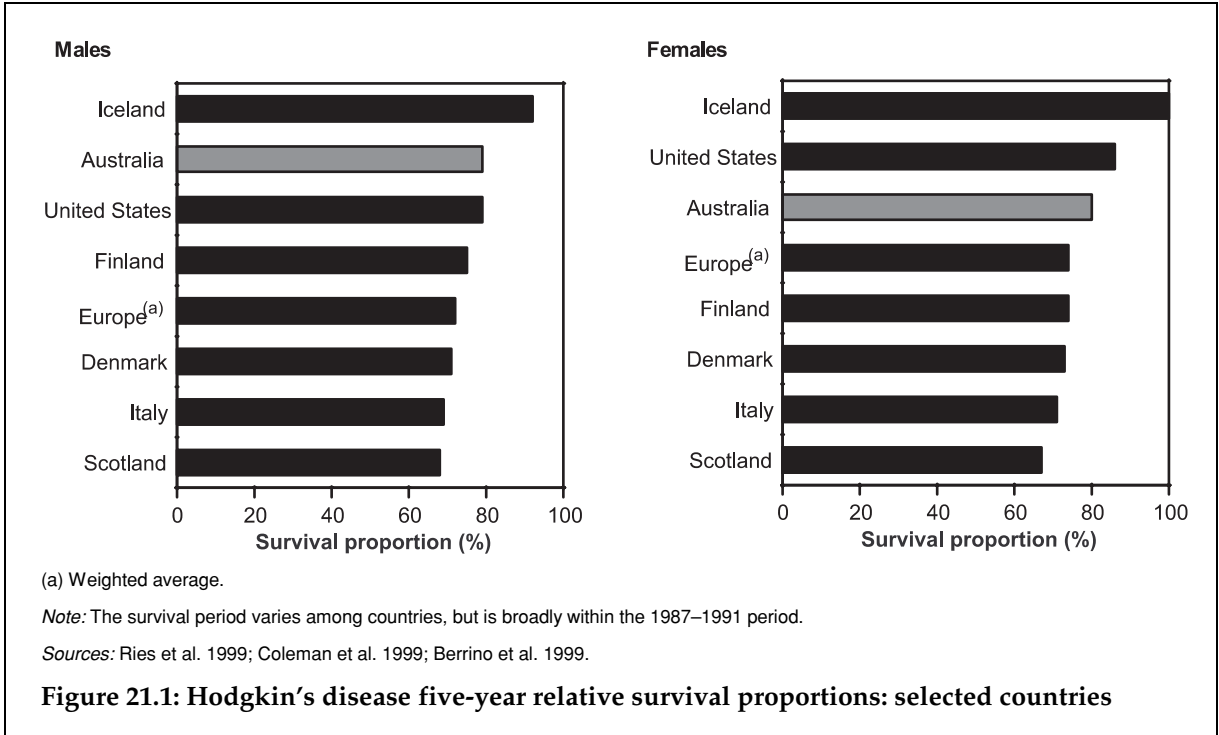
Hodgkin’s disease is a relatively uncommon cancer, and in 1997 there were 400 new cases diagnosed—209 males and 191 females. In the same year Hodgkin’s disease was responsible for 49 deaths in males and 24 deaths in females. It is estimated that in 1997 about 800 years of life were lost before the age of 75 in males and 200 in females due to Hodgkin’s disease.

For the six-year period 1992–1997, age-standardised incidence rates for Hodgkin’s disease increased slightly—by 0.7% per annum for males and 0.5% per annum for females. Age-standardised mortality rates decreased by 4.3% per annum for males and 7.9% per annum for females.

International comparisons

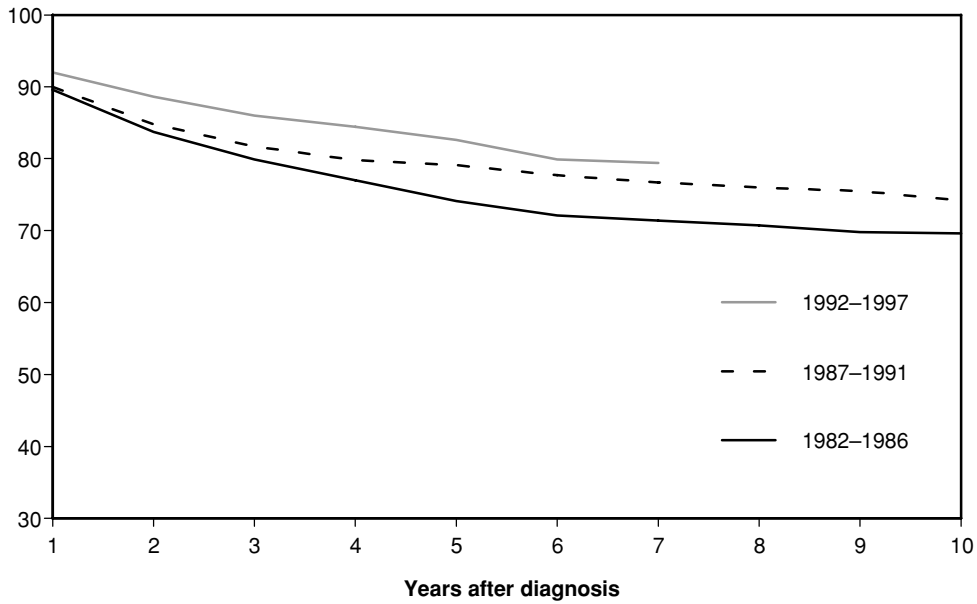
Relative survival after diagnosis of Hodgkin’s disease is relatively good in Australia, compared with countries for which relative survival information was available. Relative survival for males in Australia was lower than in Iceland, similar to the United States and Finland and higher than in Europe, Denmark, Italy and Scotland. For females in Australia, five-year relative survival was lower than in Iceland and the United States and higher than in Finland, Europe, Denmark, Italy and Scotland (Figure 21.1; Table 21.8).

Examination of relative survival by age group for the United States, England and Wales showed similar consistent decreases in relative survival rates as age increased. However, relative survival for those diagnosed after age 50 years tended to be lower in Australia (Ries et al. 1999; Coleman et al. 1999).



Males

Relative survival (%)



Females

Relative survival (%)

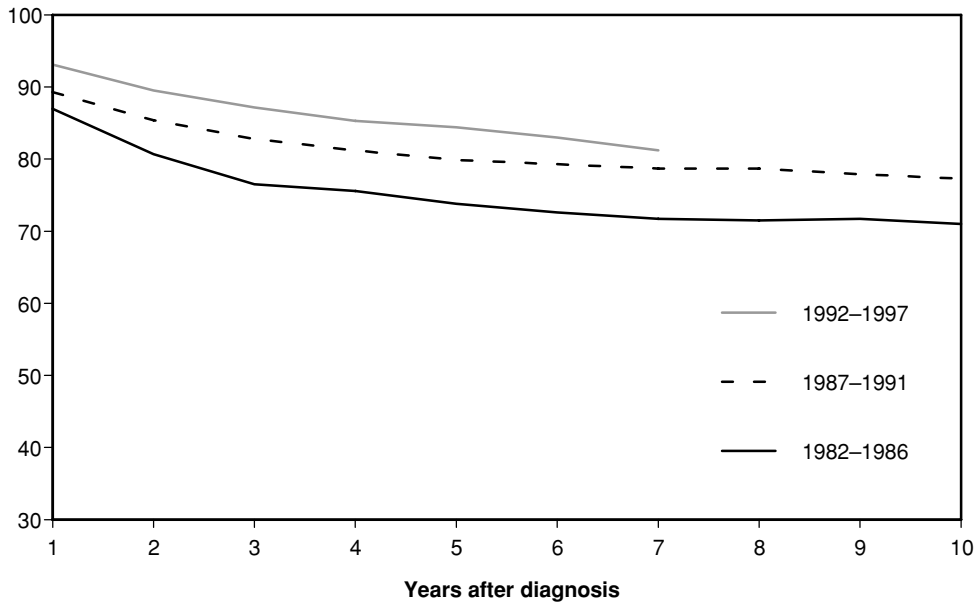
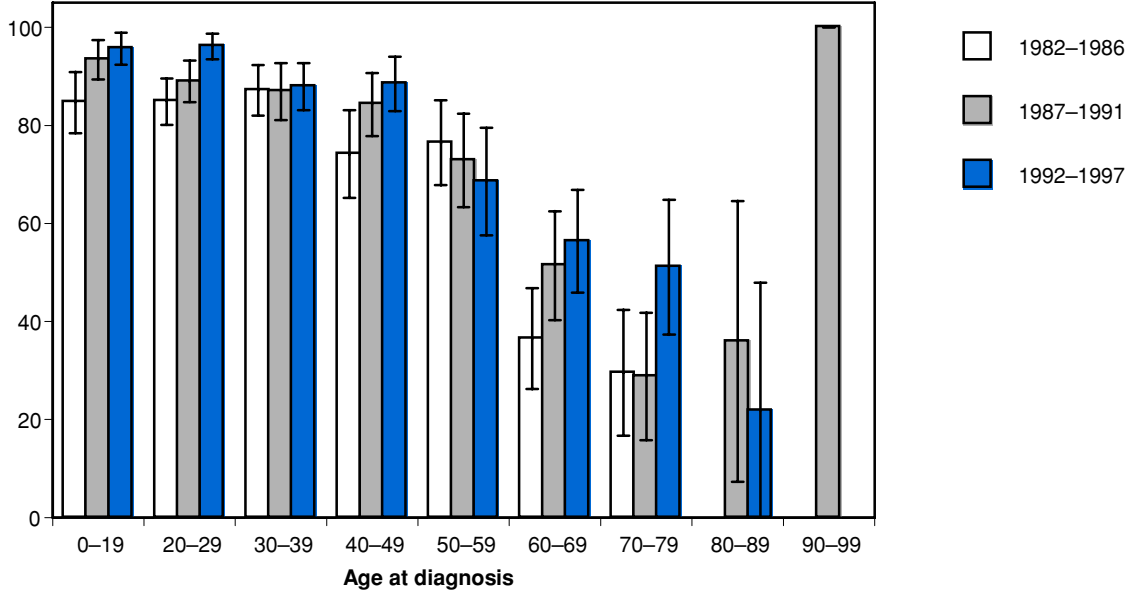


Figure 21.2: Hodgkin's disease relative survival proportions: period of diagnosis, Australia

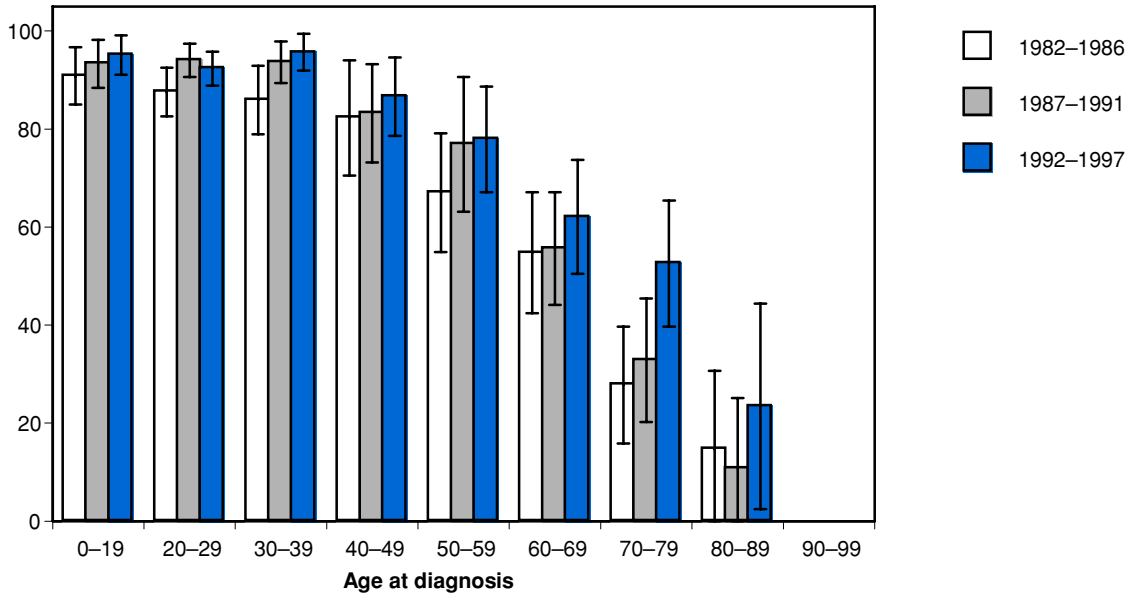
Males

Survival proportion (%)



Females

Survival proportion (%)



Note: 95% confidence intervals are shown for each age group.

Figure 21.3: Hodgkin's disease five-year relative survival proportions: age at diagnosis and period of diagnosis, Australia