

11 Cancer of the uterus

Summary

When compared with other cancer sites, relative survival after diagnosis of cancer of the uterus is high. For the period 1992–1997, relative survival one year after diagnosis of cancer of the uterus was 91.2% and five years after diagnosis was 81.4% (Table 11.1). Survival ten years after diagnosis was 76.4% in 1987–1991, the most recent period for which ten-year relative survival data are available (Figure 11.2; Table 11.3).

Relative survival after cancer of the uterus increased significantly between 1982–1986 and 1992–1997. One-year relative survival increased from 88.3% to 91.2% and five-year relative survival increased from 76.1% to 81.4% (Figure 11.2; Table 11.3).

Five-year relative survival after diagnosis of cancer of the uterus was quite high in most age groups. For those cancers diagnosed during 1992–1997, relative survival was above 80.0% for females aged under 60–69 years, declining to 63.0% in the 80–89 age group and 39.9% in the 90–99 age group (Figure 11.3; Table 11.1).

For individual age groups, five-year relative survival increased significantly between 1982–1986 and 1992–1997 for females aged 60–69 and 70–79 years. All other age groups showed no significant difference (Figure 11.3; Table 11.3).

Table 11.1: Cancer of the uterus: number of new cases and deaths, and five-year relative survival proportions, by age at diagnosis, Australia, 1992–1997

| Age | New cases | Deaths | 5-year relative survival (%) |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 0–19 years | 4 | 1 | * |
| 20–29 years | 35 | 2 | 97.3 |
| 30–39 years | 181 | 18 | 92.2 |
| 40–49 years | 760 | 87 | 89.7 |
| 50–59 years | 1,747 | 245 | 88.3 |
| 60–69 years | 2,285 | 486 | 83.0 |
| 70–79 years | 1,916 | 737 | 72.9 |
| 80–89 years | 822 | 500 | 63.0 |
| 90–99 years | 94 | 78 | 39.9 |
| All ages | 7,844 | 2,154 | 81.4 |

* 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

In 1997, there were 1,394 new cases of cancer of the uterus diagnosed in Australia. It was also the cause of death for 271 females. It is estimated that in 1997 there were about 1,600 years of life lost before the age of 75 due to cancer of the uterus.

Age-standardised incidence rates for cancer of the uterus over the six-year period 1992–1997 increased by approximately 1.1% per annum. Age-standardised mortality rates also increased slightly over this period by about 0.6% per annum.

International comparisons

Five-year relative survival after diagnosis of cancer of the uterus in Australia is similar to other countries for which relative survival data were available. Five-year relative survival in these countries ranged between 65% and 85%. The United States had the highest five-year relative survival (85%), closely followed by Australia (80%) (Figure 11.1; Table 11.5).





