Trends in net survival from 15 cancers in six European Latin countries: the SUDCAN population-based study material

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The aim of the SUDCAN collaborative study was to compare the net survival from 15 cancers diagnosed in 2000–2004 in six European Latin countries and provide trends in net survival and dynamics of excess mortality rates up to 5 years after diagnosis from 1992 to 2004 in France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland, and from 2000 to 2004 in Belgium and Portugal. This paper presents a detailed description of the data analyzed and quality indicators. Incident cases from Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland were retrieved from 56 general or specialized population-based cancer registries that participated in the EUROCARE-5 database. Fifteen cancer sites were analyzed. The data were checked according to the EUROCARE protocol. The percentages of excluded cases, cases based on death-certificate only, cases lost to follow-up at 5 years after diagnosis, and the proportions of microscopically verified cases were evaluated across countries and cancer sites. Data exclusions for major flaws were negligible. Cases based on death-certificate only were quite rare, except for some poor-prognosis cancers in some countries. The site-specific proportions of microscopically verified cases were generally high, but slightly lower in Italy than elsewhere. The percentage of cases lost to follow-up at 5 years after diagnosis was generally low. The net survival analyses in 2000–2004 included 873,314 tumors, whereas trend analyses included 1,426,004 tumors. The quality of the data analyzed was generally good. In fact, the analyzed data have been already checked and accepted for EUROCARE-5. However, slight differences in quality indexes, for some cancers, should be kept in mind in the interpretation of survival comparisons across countries. European Journal of Cancer Prevention 25:S3–S8 Copyright © 2016 Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Introduction

The SUDCAN project aimed at providing detailed trend analyses of cancer net survival in six European Latin countries: Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland. This study was carried out upon an initiative of the GRELL (http://www.grell-network.org), in collaboration with the EUROCARE network (http://www.eurocare.it).

Fifteen cancer sites were studied. The first aim of SUDCAN was to provide an overview of the net survival by country for cases diagnosed between 2000 and 2004. The second and main aim was to provide trends in net survival and dynamics of excess mortality rates up to 5 years after diagnosis on the longest possible period for each country. This paper presents the material used in the SUDCAN project. The method is presented in a dedicated paper (Uhry et al., 2016) and the results for each cancer site are shown in specific papers of this monograph.

Data sources

Incident cases

Incident cases in the six European Latin countries were retrieved from the EUROCARE-5 database (Rossi et al., 2015). Only solid tumors were considered. The study protocol required demographic characteristics (sex, date of birth, registry, country of residence, etc.) and clinical characteristics (date of cancer diagnosis, date of death or last known life status, cancer topography and morphology – according to ICD-0-3 – and basis of diagnosis). The end...