

Trends in net survival from rectal cancer in six European Latin countries: results from the SUDCAN population-based study

Côme Lepage^a, Nadine Bossard^{b,c,d,e}, Olivier Dejardin^f,
Maria C. Carmona-Garcia^g, Sylvain Manfredi^a and Jean Faivre^a;
the GRELL EUROCORE-5 Working Group*

Rectal cancer is a common and serious disease. The aim of the SUDCAN collaborative study was to compare the net survival from rectal cancer between six European Latin countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland) and provide trends in net survival and dynamics of excess mortality rates up to 5 years after diagnosis. The data were extracted from the EUROCORE-5 database. First, net survival was studied over the period 2000–2004 using the Pohar-Perme estimator. For trend analyses, the study-period was specific to each country. The results are reported from 1992 to 2004 in France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland and from 2000 to 2004 in Belgium and Portugal. These analyses were carried out using a flexible excess rate modeling strategy. There were some differences between countries in age-standardized net survivals (2000–2004). The 5-year survival ranged from 55% (Portugal) to 62% (Belgium). There was an increase in age-standardized survival rates between 1992 and 2004 as observed at 1 and 5 years. This increase was observed in the 60 and 70-year age groups, but was less marked in the 80-year age group. This was related to a decrease in the excess mortality rates between 1992 and 2004, until ~ 24 months after diagnosis in France and Switzerland,

whereas it was continuous over the entire study period in Italy and Spain. Considerable improvements in survival from rectal cancer have been achieved. Further improvements are expected through better adherence to the guidelines and the implementation of mass screening. *European Journal of Cancer Prevention* 25:S48–S55 Copyright © 2016 Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All rights reserved.

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^aDigestive Cancer Registry of Burgundy F-21079, INSERM U866, CHU Dijon, University of Burgundy, ^bDepartment of Biostatistics, University Hospital of Lyon, ^cUniversity of Lyon, ^dUniversity of Lyon 1, Lyon, ^eCNRS, UMR5558, Biometry and Evolutionary Biology Laboratory (LBBE), BioMaths-Health Department, Villeurbanne, ^fUniversity Hospital of Caen, U1086 INSERM UCBN "Cancers & preventions", Caen, France and ^gUniversity Hospital of Girona Dr Trueta, Unit of Epidemiology and Girona Cancer Registry, Girona, Spain

Correspondence to Côme Lepage, Pr, Digestive Cancer Registry of Burgundy F-21079, INSERM U866, CHU Dijon, University of Burgundy, Dijon, France
Tel: +33 380 393 407; fax: +33 380 668 251;
e-mail: come.lepage@u-bourgogne.fr

*List of the members available at <http://links.lww.com/EJCP/A137>

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