

THYROID CANCER

Table 19.1: Characteristics of the cohort

	Males	Females
First primary cancer	818	2,371
Age at diagnosis		
Mean	49.7	46.6
<65 years	640	1,983
=>65 years	178	388
Total person-years	5,990	18,013
Mean follow-up (years)	7.3	7.6
Histological confirmation (%)	99.9	99.8
Adenocarcinoma	63.4	65.1
Other specific carcinoma	25.3	26.0
Unspecified carcinoma	8.8	6.4
Sarcomas and soft tissue	2.4	2.2
No histological confirmation	0.0	0.2
Second primary cancers		
Non-simultaneous	70	136
Simultaneous	2	10

Table 19.2: Cumulative risk (%) of the most common second primary cancers

	Sex	Follow-up years					
		1	5	10	15	20	23
All cancers	M	1.7	5.9	8.7	12.2	13.4	17.5
All cancers	F	0.5	2.6	6.2	10.2	14.8	14.8
Colon	M	0.0	0.8	1.6	1.6	2.3	6.8
Colon	F	0.0	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.6	1.6
Melanoma	M	0.3	0.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Melanoma	F	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.5
Breast	F	0.1	0.7	1.9	3.3	5.1	5.1

All other cancers have 10-year cumulative risk of < 0.5% for both sexes.

Common second cancers

From Table 19.2 a man's 10-year cumulative risk of contracting a second cancer is seen to be higher than that for a woman (1 in 11 compared with 1 in 16). A male excess is seen for both of the major cancer types to which both sexes are susceptible, colon and melanoma.

Age-specific Incidence

The principal feature of Figure 19.1 is that the age incidence curves for the second primary cancers are much higher at early ages and converge with increasing age.

Trends in SIRs

The trends in Figure 19.2 show an increased SIR following diagnosis of the first primary.

Trends in SIRs for specific cancer types by period of follow-up can be found in Table 19.4 (page 96) separately for men and women. Overall 23-year SIRs are given in Table 1.3 (pages 58-61). The overall 23-year SIRs are 1.23 for men and 1.28 for women (statistically significant only for women). There are no SIRs less than 1. Statistically significant SIRs are observed for colon 2.18 and kidney 3.46 for men and pancreas 3.04 for women.

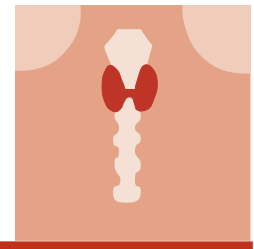


Figure 19.1: Age-specific rates

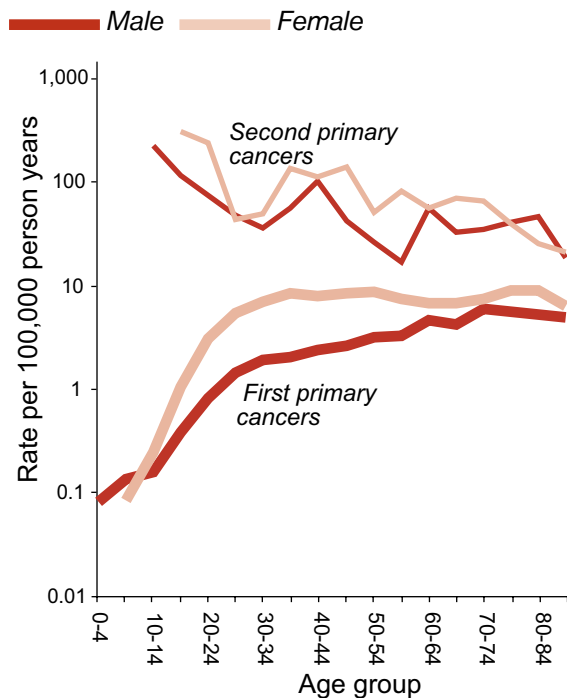
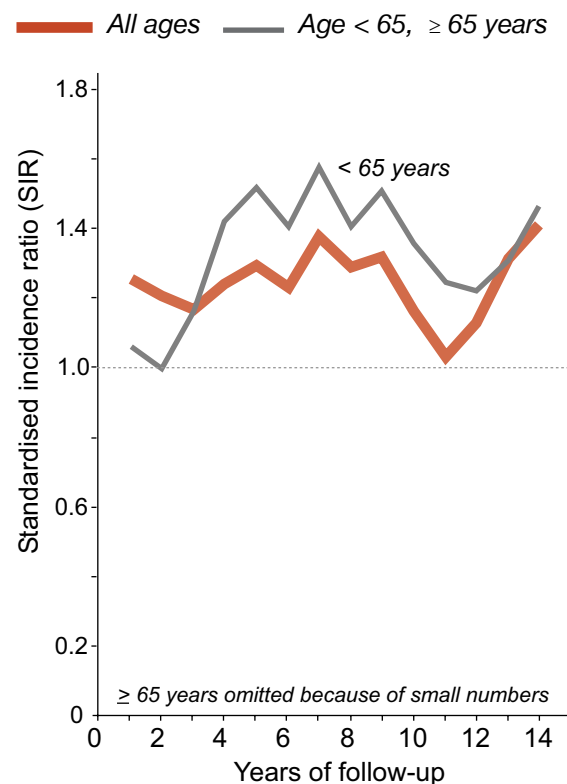


Figure 19.2: Trends in the annual SIR for all second primary cancers



Trends in SIRs with age

In Figure 19.2 the general pattern of trends in SIRs differs between age groups, with the under 65 year age group having increasing risks in the first four years and then more stable risks whilst for older people risks decreased over the first ten years of follow-up.

Estimates of overall 23-year SIRs by age group and sex are to be found in Table 19.5 (page 97). The younger age group has higher SIRs than the older age group but none were significantly greater than 1.0. The SIRs are 1.44 for men first diagnosed before 65 years of age compared with 0.98 for those diagnosed at an older age. The SIRs for women are 1.30 and 1.25 respectively.

There were no significant SIRs for individual cancers for either men or women under or over 65 years at initial diagnosis of thyroid cancer.

Comments

Data for second cancers following thyroid cancer should be interpreted with caution because there were few second cancers.

The association between thyroid cancer and kidney cancer has been seen in a number of studies. The reason for the association is unknown. Chance might explain the other associations.