

OESOPHAGUS

The 5-year survival for people with oesophageal cancer is 17%.

Sex Survival was slightly lower for men (15%) than women (22%).

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival.

Regional comparisons Survival was higher for residents of Melbourne (21%) than the rest of Victoria (11%).

Time trends Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 10% to 17%.

A clinician's comment "Interpretation of these figures needs to be related to the changing pattern of oesophageal cancer in our community as has previously been documented. There is a rising incidence of adenocarcinoma, particularly in males.

"The slight improvement in survival over the past 15 years does not reflect the increasing effort placed into the management of oesophageal cancer where multimodality therapy is now common. The management of oesophageal cancer remains very specialised. Further aggregation within dedicated units may be necessary in order to improve survival further. Some of the improvement which has occurred may relate to a better post-operative management with reduction in post-operative mortality."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with oesophageal cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		43	(39-47)	
2		27	(23-31)	
3		21	(18-25)	
4		19	(16-23)	
5		17	(14-21)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	1,150	17	(14-21)	
Sex				0.30
Male	761	15	(11-19)	
Female	389	22	(16-29)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-54	117	22	(12-33)	
55-64	189	28	(18-37)	
65-74	298	19	(12-26)	
75+	546	10	(6-14)	
Region of residence				0.01
Melbourne	726	21	(16-26)	
Rest of Victoria	424	11	(7-16)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		10	(7-13)	
1995		13	(10-17)	
2000		19	(15-22)	
2004		17	(14-21)	



Figure 1: Survival by year

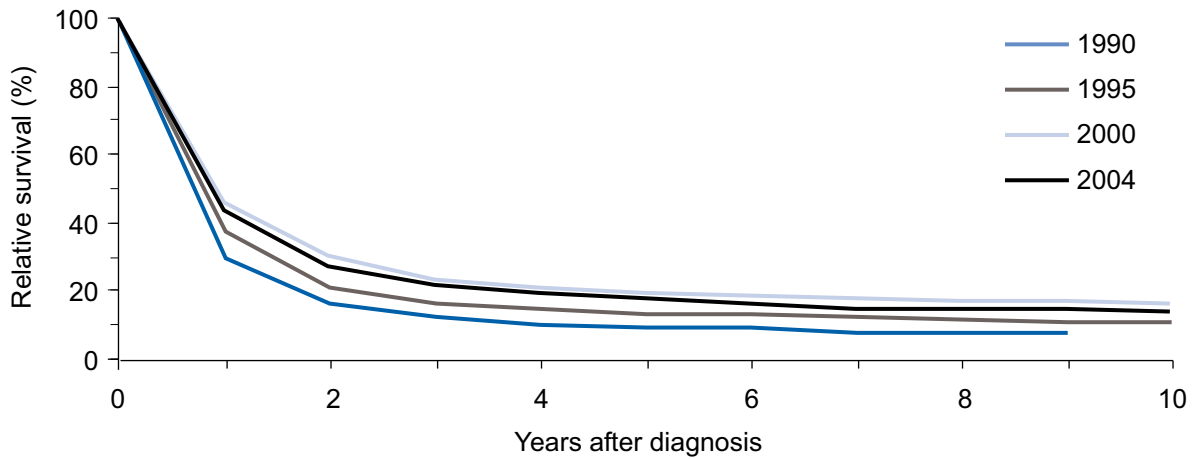


Figure 2: Survival by sex

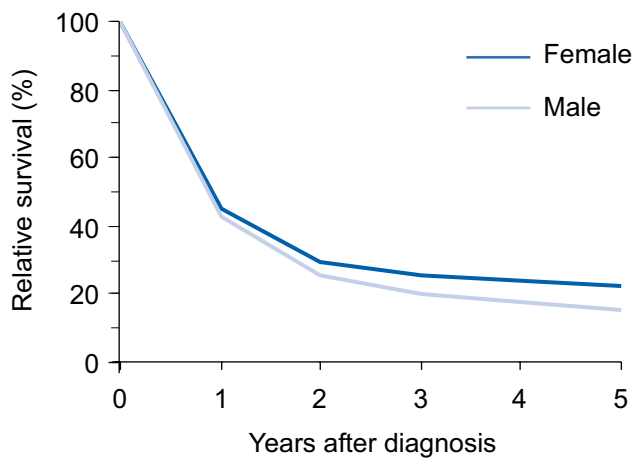
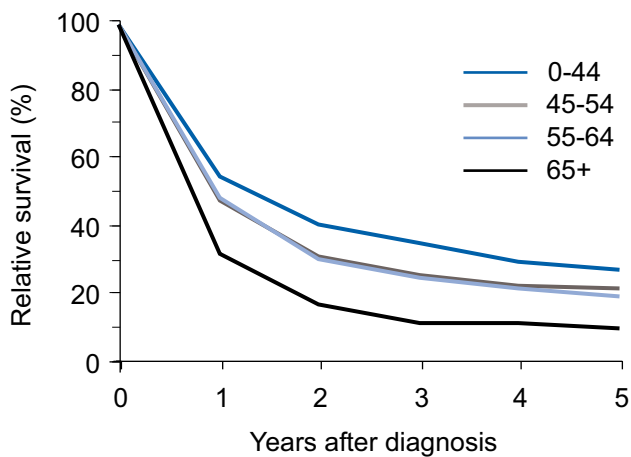


Figure 3: Survival by age group



STOMACH

The 5-year survival for people with stomach cancer is 25%.

Sex 5-year survival was slightly better for women (27%) than for men (24%)

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival, with proportions ranging from 35% for persons under 45 years and 15% for those aged over 75 years.

Regional comparisons Survival was higher for residents of Melbourne (27%) than the rest of Victoria (20%). Survival for the ICS regions varied between 16% and 29%, with proportions for Grampians and Hume being similar to those for metropolitan Melbourne and in other regional ICS regions being slightly lower.

Time trends Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 18% to 25%.

A clinician's comment "A modest improvement in survival is noted. There is a changing pattern and type of gastric cancer occurring with less intestinal cancer and more proximal diffuse cancer. This may impact on survival. A 5-year survival of 25% does indicate that a nihilistic approach to this disease is unreasonable and that a small group can achieve long-term survival and in fact cure of disease. Specialist unit activity is needed for management of gastric cancer."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with stomach cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		50	(47-53)	
2		35	(32-38)	
3		30	(27-33)	
4		27	(24-30)	
5		25	(22-28)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	2,011	25	(22-28)	
Sex				0.93
Male	1,288	24	(20-27)	
Female	723	27	(22-32)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-44	86	35	(21-49)	
45-64	437	37	(30-43)	
65-74	623	26	(21-32)	
75+	865	15	(11-19)	
Region of residence				<0.01
Melbourne	1,401	27	(23-30)	
Rest of Victoria	610	20	(15-25)	
Integrated Cancer Services Region				<0.01
Southern	546	26	(21-32)	
Western & Central	360	29	(22-37)	
North Eastern	495	26	(20-31)	
Barwon South Western	181	20	(11-29)	
Grampians	79	26	(10-43)	
Loddon-Mallee	129	16	(6-25)	
Hume	107	25	(12-39)	
Gippsland	114	16	(6-27)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		18	(15-21)	
1995		22	(19-25)	
2000		23	(21-26)	
2004		25	(22-28)	

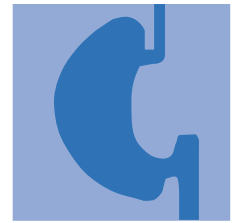


Figure 1: Survival by year

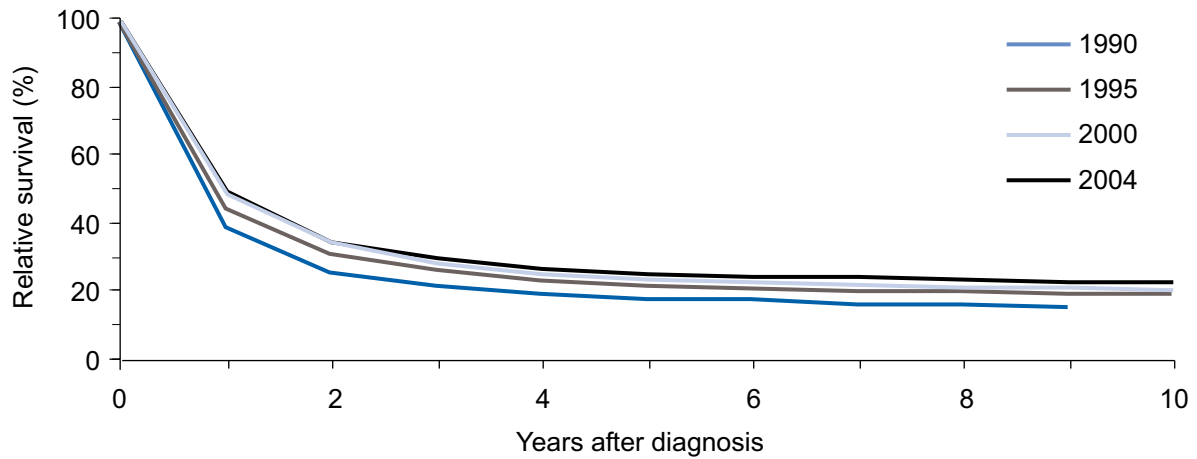


Figure 2: Survival by sex

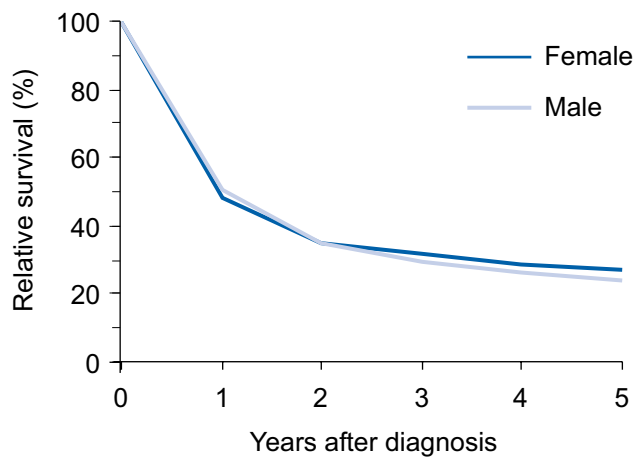
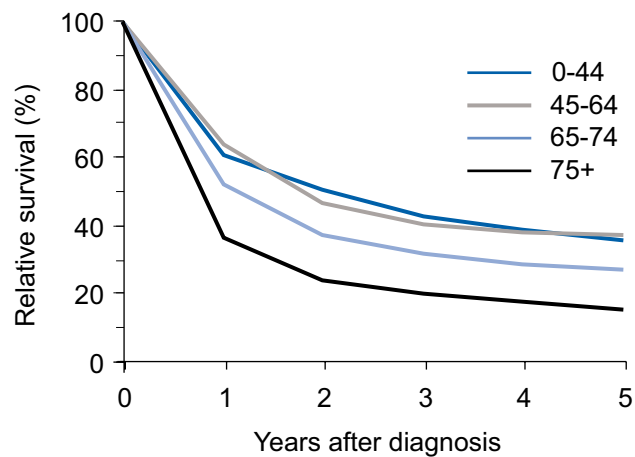


Figure 3: Survival by age group



COLON

The 5-year survival for people with colon cancer is 63%.

Sex Survival was similar for men and women.

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival.

Regional comparisons Survival did not differ between residents of Melbourne and the rest of Victoria and was similar across the ICS regions ranging from 58% (Loddon-Mallee) to 65% (North Eastern).

Time trends Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 47% to 63%.

A clinician's comment "The improved survival is probably due to a combination of better treatment, including the use of multimodality and adjuvant therapy, and earlier detection of disease. The new National Bowel Cancer Screening Program should eventually result in further survival improvements."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with colon cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		81	(79-82)	
2		72	(71-74)	
3		68	(66-69)	
4		65	(63-67)	
5		63	(61-65)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	4,998	63	(61-65)	
Sex				0.83
Male	2,587	63	(60-65)	
Female	2,411	63	(60-65)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-44	129	65	(57-74)	
45-54	339	65	(59-70)	
55-64	633	71	(68-75)	
65-74	1,387	65	(62-68)	
75+	2,510	56	(53-60)	
Region of residence				<0.01
Melbourne	3,291	63	(61-66)	
Rest of Victoria	1,705	61	(58-65)	
Integrated Cancer Services Region				0.04
Southern	1,396	62	(59-66)	
Western & Central	726	63	(59-68)	
North Eastern	1,169	65	(61-69)	
Barwon	478	61	(54-67)	
Grampians	267	63	(54-71)	
Loddon-Mallee	362	58	(51-66)	
Hume	280	63	(56-71)	
Gippsland	318	63	(55-70)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		47	(45-49)	
1995		52	(50-54)	
2000		56	(54-58)	
2004		63	(61-65)	



Figure 1: Survival by year

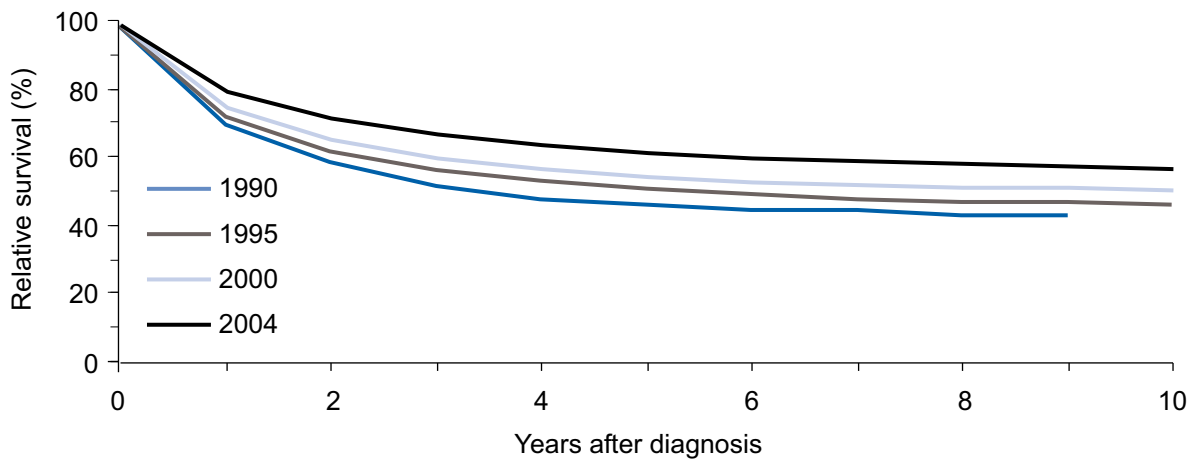


Figure 2: Survival by sex

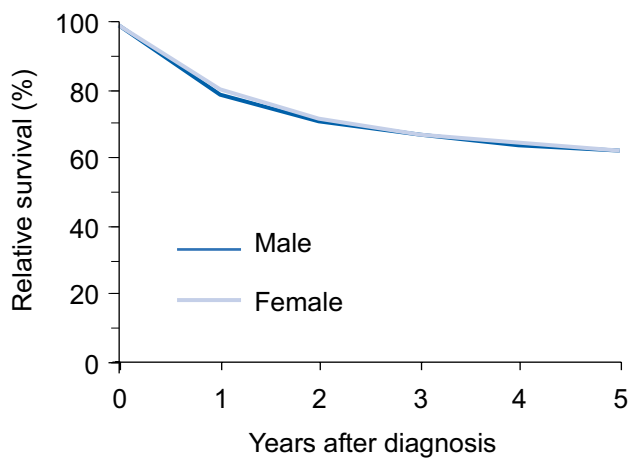
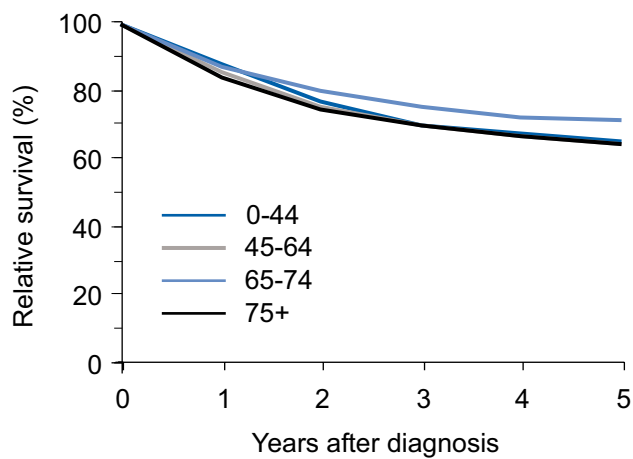


Figure 3: Survival by age group



RECTUM

The 5-year survival for people with rectal cancer is 63%.

Sex The 5-year survival rates were slightly lower for men (61%) than women (66%).

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival, with rates ranging from 68% for persons aged less than 45 years at diagnosis to 53% for those aged over 75 years.

Regional comparisons Survival did not differ between residents of Melbourne and the rest of Victoria and was similar across the ICS regions ranging from 61% to 65%.

Time trends Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 50% to 63%.

A clinician's comment "The improved survival is probably due to a combination of better treatment, including the use of multimodality and adjuvant therapy, and earlier detection of disease. The new National Bowel Cancer Screening Program should eventually result in further survival improvements."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with rectal cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		86	(84-87)	
2		76	(74-78)	
3		70	(68-72)	
4		66	(63-68)	
5		63	(60-65)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	2,572	63	(60-65)	
Sex				0.13
Male	1,592	61	(58-64)	
Female	980	66	(62-70)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-44	84	68	(58-78)	
45-54	197	62	(55-68)	
55-64	401	74	(69-78)	
65-74	740	64	(59-68)	
75+	1,150	53	(48-58)	
Region of residence				0.24
Melbourne	1,737	63	(60-66)	
Rest of Victoria	833	63	(59-68)	
Integrated Cancer Services Region				0.64
Southern	679	62	(57-67)	
Western & Central	415	62	(56-68)	
North Eastern	643	64	(59-69)	
Barwon South Western	216	65	(57-74)	
Grampians	126	66	(55-77)	
Loddon-Mallee	179	61	(51-70)	
Hume	153	65	(55-75)	
Gippsland	159	61	(50-71)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		50	(47-53)	
1995		56	(53-59)	
2000		61	(59-64)	
2004		63	(60-65)	

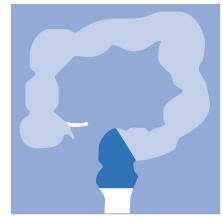


Figure 1: Survival by year

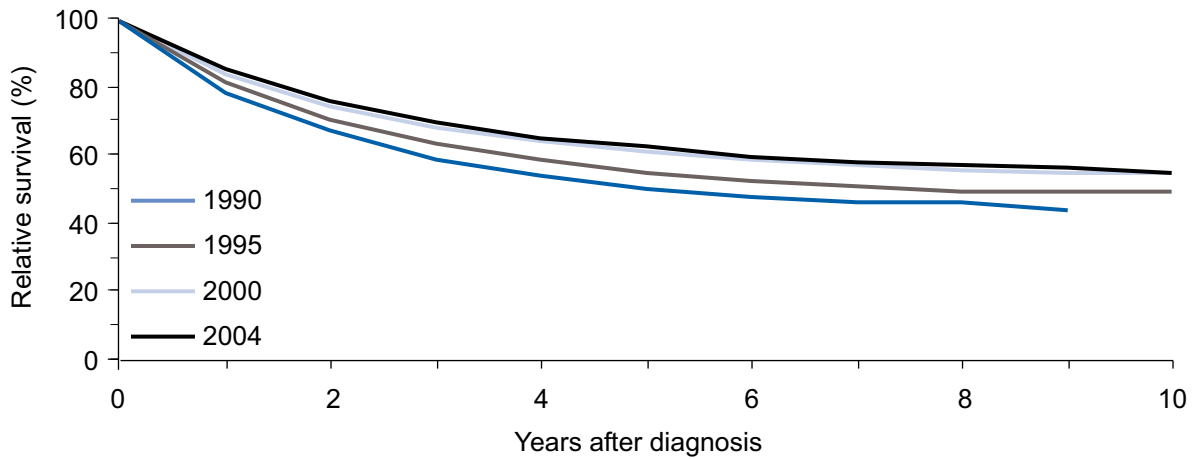


Figure 2: Survival by sex

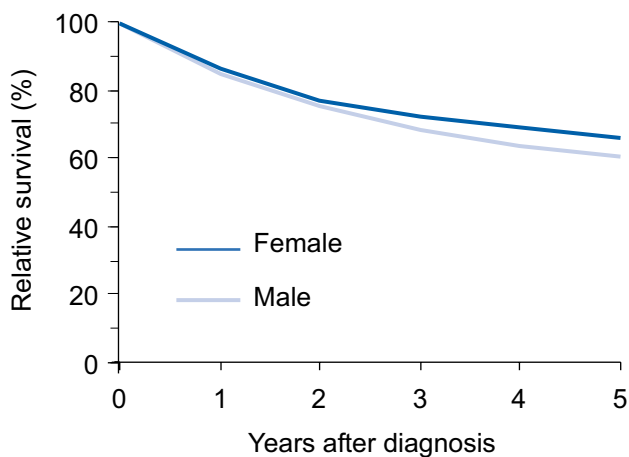
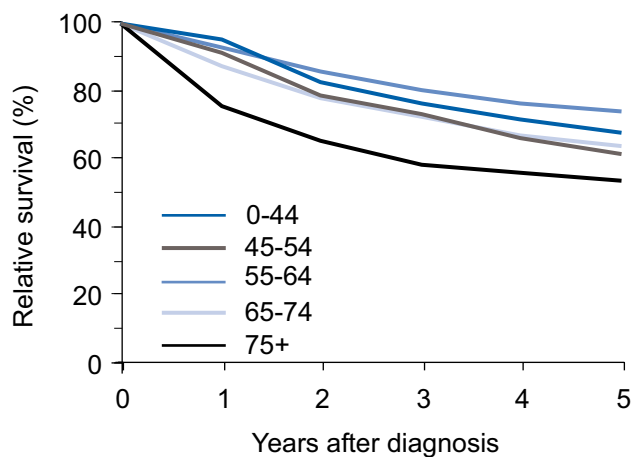


Figure 3: Survival by age group



LIVER

The 5-year survival for people with liver cancer is 10%, amongst the lowest for all cancers.

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was strongly associated with worse survival, being 19% for persons aged under 55 years falling to only 4% for those aged over 75 years at diagnosis.

Regional comparisons Survival was higher for residents of Melbourne (12%) and the rest of Victoria (5%).

Time trends Survival improved from 5% to 10% over the 15 years.

A clinician's comment "While the 5-year survival for people with liver cancer remains poor at 10%, there has been a slight improvement over the period. The reasons for this are unknown but may include an increase in the proportion of cancers diagnosed at an early stage, favourable changes in epidemiology and/or improvement in treatment modalities. Certainly, screening for liver cancer in at-risk subjects is more prevalent over the past decade and tumours detected this way are often at an earlier stage and therefore associated with longer survival than those that present with symptoms.

"The epidemiology of liver cancer has also changed. Hepatitis C viral infection is now a major risk factor for liver cancer and tumours related to this infection could have a better prognosis compared to those related to other factors such as hepatitis B.

"In contrast, the past two decades have witnessed few major developments in the treatment of liver cancer, particularly for those with unresectable disease. Liver transplantation remains the gold standard for treatment but as access to this modality remains poor it is doubtful that this is the major reason for the observed improved survival."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with liver cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		32	(28-36)	
2		20	(16-23)	
3		15	(12-19)	
4		12	(9-15)	
5		10	(7-13)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	986	10	(7-13)	
Sex				0.50
Male	719	11	(7-14)	
Female	267	9	(4-14)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-54	150	19	(10-27)	
55-64	151	22	(12-31)	
65-74	313	7	(3-10)	
75+	372	4	(1-7)	
Region of residence				<0.01
Melbourne	743	12	(9-15)	
Rest of Victoria	242	5	(2-9)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		5	(2-9)	
1995		4	(2-6)	
2000		11	(7-14)	
2004		10	(7-13)	

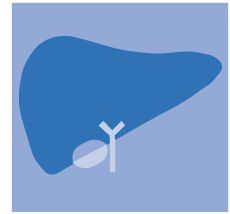


Figure 1: Survival by year

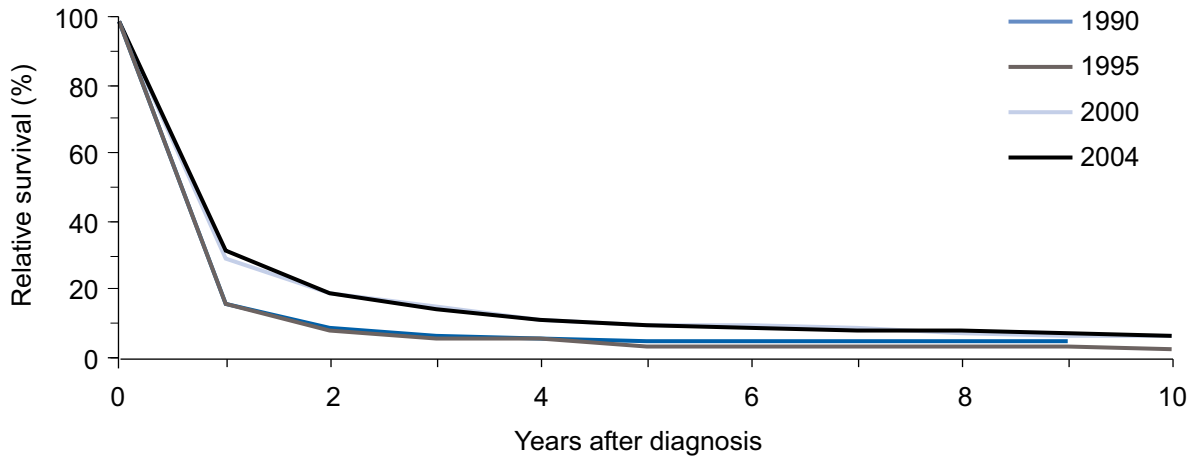


Figure 2: Survival by sex

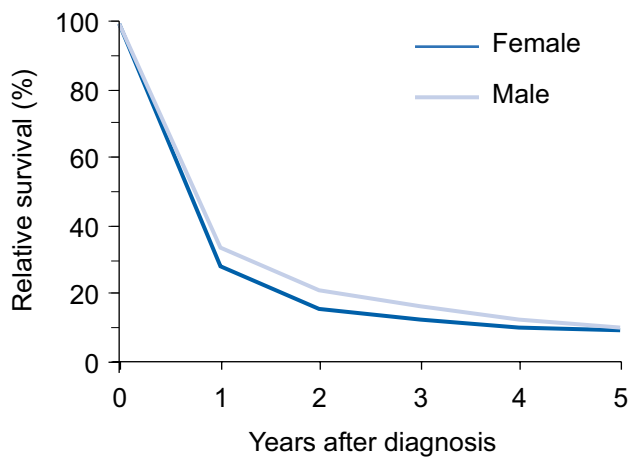
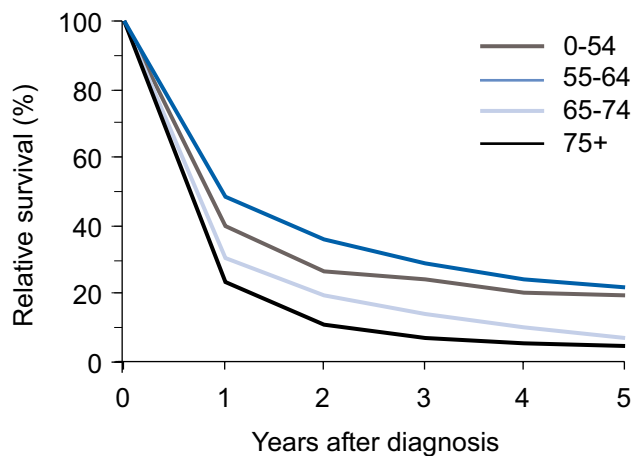


Figure 3: Survival by age group



GALLBLADDER

The 5-year survival for people with cancer of the gallbladder is 18%.

Sex Survival was slightly better for men (20%) than women (17%).

Age at diagnosis Survival was similar for younger age groups (23-29%) but much lower for those aged over 75 years at diagnosis (8%).

Regional comparisons Survival did not differ between residents of Melbourne and the rest of Victoria.

Time trends Survival improved slightly over the 15 years from 1990 from 14% to 18%.

A clinician's comment "The changes in survival of gallbladder cancer over this period parallel those of liver cancer. 5-year survival has improved from 14% to 18%. The factors behind this trend are obscure. Nevertheless, improvements in the ability to diagnose, stage and treat this condition and related complications over the corresponding period are likely to have contributed to the improved patient outcomes."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with gallbladder cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		45	(39-50)	
2		28	(22-33)	
3		22	(17-27)	
4		20	(15-24)	
5		18	(13-23)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	599	18	(13-23)	
Sex				0.26
Male	250	20	(12-27)	
Female	349	17	(11-23)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-54	59	26	(10-43)	
55-64	81	29	(16-42)	
65-74	179	23	(13-33)	
75+	280	8	(3-13)	
Region of residence				0.04
Melbourne	427	19	(13-24)	
Rest of Victoria	170	17	(8-26)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		14	(9-18)	
1995		15	(11-19)	
2000		15	(11-19)	
2004		18	(13-23)	

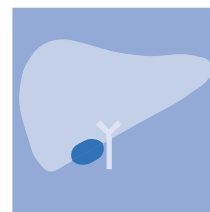


Figure 1: Survival by year

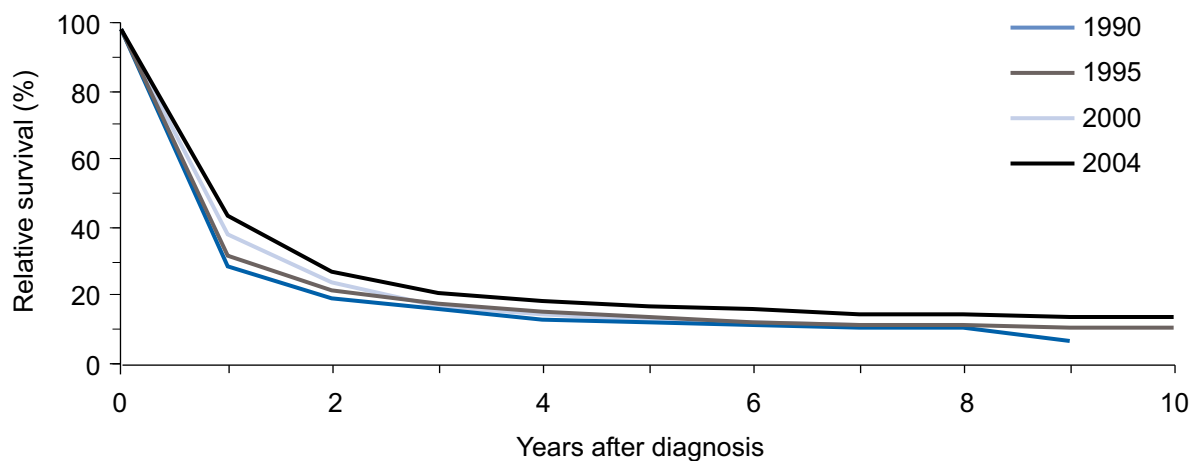


Figure 2: Survival by sex

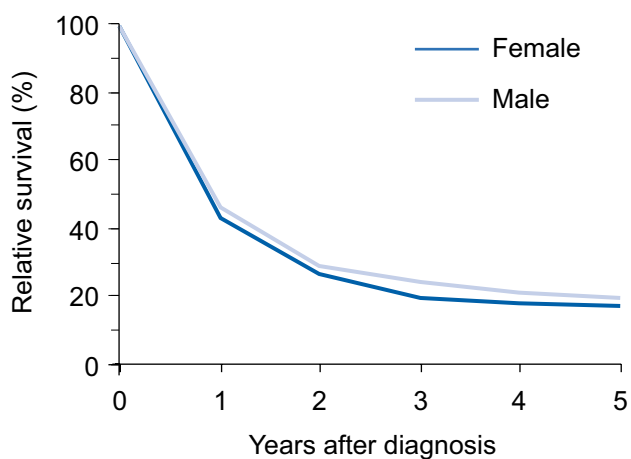
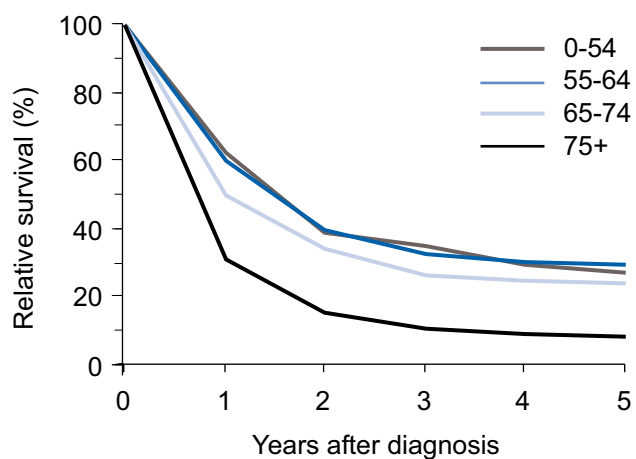


Figure 3: Survival by age group



PANCREAS

The 5-year survival for people with pancreatic cancer is 5%.

Sex For both men and women this cancer has the poorest survival of all cancers.

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival, patients under 55 years (14%) having slightly better prognosis than older patients (3-5%).

Regional comparisons Survival was similarly low for residents of Melbourne and the rest of Victoria. There was some variation in survival between ICS regions.

Time trends Small increases in survival have occurred over the 15 year period.

A clinician's comment "Poor outcomes are confirmed in patients with pancreatic cancer. The failure to show more improvement over time suggests that pancreatic cancer continues to present in a state too advanced for curative treatment. Earlier diagnosis and use of specialised treatment centres is necessary to improve survival figures."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex and age group for Victorians with pancreatic cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis	Survival (%)	95% confidence interval
1	21	(18-23)
2	10	(8-12)
3	7	(5-8)
4	6	(4-7)
5	5	(4-6)

By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	2,243	5	(4-6)	
Sex				0.34
Male	1,144	6	(4-8)	
Female	1,099	4	(3-6)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-54	219	14	(7-20)	
55-64	373	6	(3-9)	
65-74	642	5	(3-7)	
75+	1,009	3	(2-5)	
Region of residence				<0.01
Melbourne	1,542	6	(4-8)	
Rest of Victoria	700	3	(1-5)	
Integrated Cancer Services Region				<0.01
Southern	678	5	(3-8)	
Western & Central	348	9	(4-13)	
North Eastern	516	6	(3-9)	
Barwon South Western	180	2	(0-4)	
Grampians	103	2	(0-6)	
Loddon-Mallee	143	1	(0-3)	
Hume	131	7	(1-14)	
Gippsland	143	3	(0-7)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		3	(2-5)	
1995		5	(4-6)	
2000		5	(4-7)	
2004		5	(4-6)	



Figure 1: Survival by year

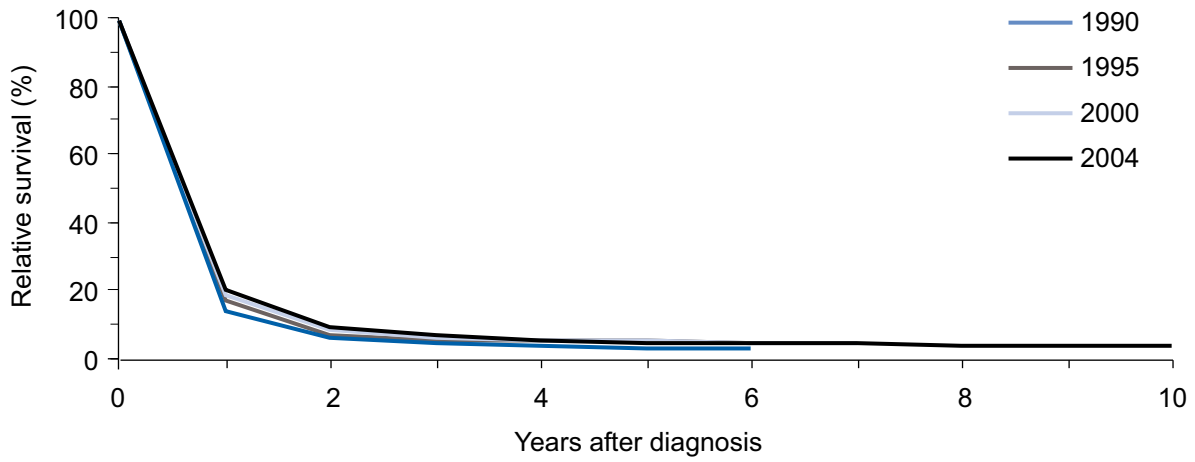


Figure 2: Survival by sex

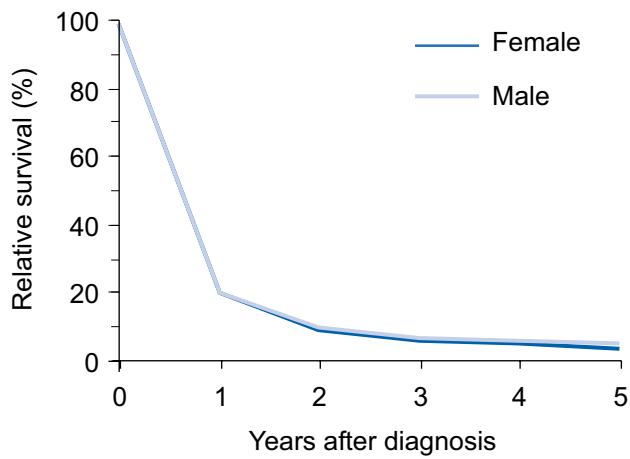


Figure 3: Survival by age group

