

# MESOTHELIOMA

**The 5-year survival for people with mesothelioma is 5%**, one of the lowest cancer survival rates.

**Sex** Survival was 4% for men and 11% for women.

**Age at diagnosis** Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival, with rates falling from 23% in persons under 55 years to 3% for persons over 75 years at diagnosis.

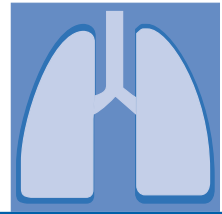
**Regional comparisons** Survival did not differ between residents of Melbourne and the rest of Victoria.

**Time trends** There was no improvement in survival over the 15 years from 1990.

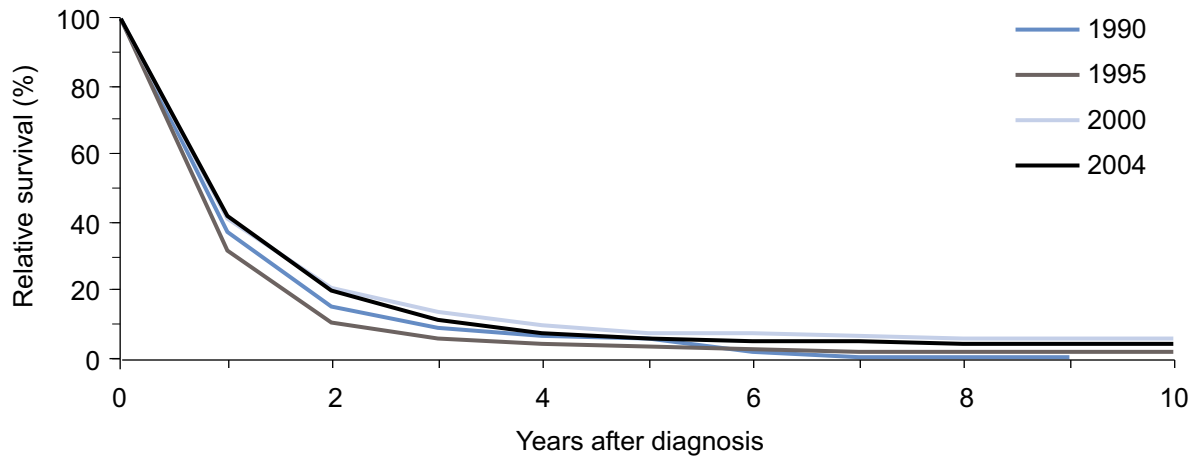
**A clinician's comment** "The low survival of patients with pleural mesothelioma reinforces the perception that this is a deadly disease for which there is no effective treatment."

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

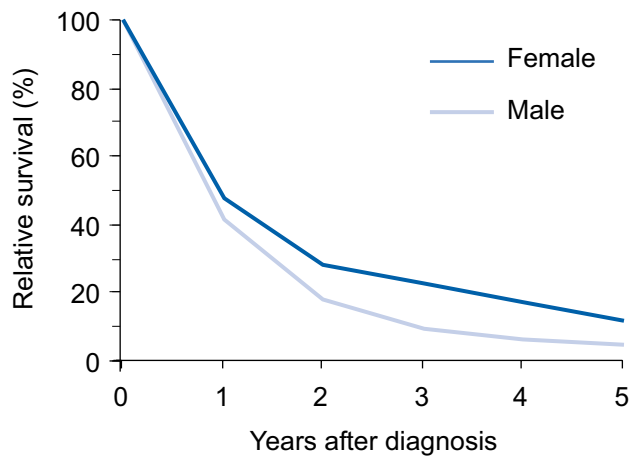
Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		42	(36-47)	
2		19	(14-24)	
3		11	(7-15)	
4		7	(4-10)	
5		5	(3-8)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
<b>All cases</b>	561	5	(3-8)	
<b>Sex</b>				0.24
Male	463	4	(2-7)	
Female	98	11	(1-21)	
<b>Age at diagnosis</b>				<0.01
0-54	48	23	(3-42)	
55-64	109	13	(3-23)	
65-74	191	2	(0-4)	
75+	213	3	(0-7)	
<b>Region of residence</b>				0.28
Melbourne metropolitan	388	4	(1-7)	
Rest of Victoria	173	9	(2-16)	
<b>Selected years</b>				0.48
1990		5	(1-9)	
1995		3	(1-5)	
2000		7	(3-11)	
2004		5	(3-8)	



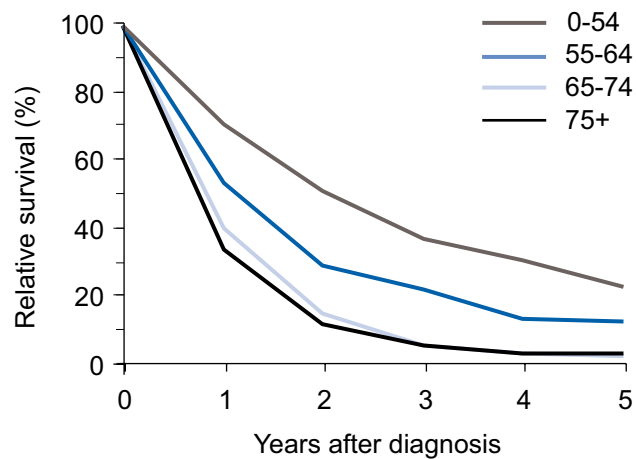
**Figure 1: Survival by year**



**Figure 2: Survival by sex**



**Figure 3: Survival by age group**



# CONNECTIVE & SOFT TISSUE

Note: This tumour grouping does not include Kaposi sarcoma

**The 5-year survival for people with cancers of connective and other soft tissue is 68%.**

**Sex** Survival did not differ between men and women.

**Age at diagnosis** Older age at diagnosis was associated with worse survival, with proportions of 80% for persons under 45 years falling to 58% for persons over 75 years at diagnosis.

**Regional comparisons** Survival was slightly higher for residents of Melbourne than the rest of Victoria.

**Time trends** Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 56% to 68%.

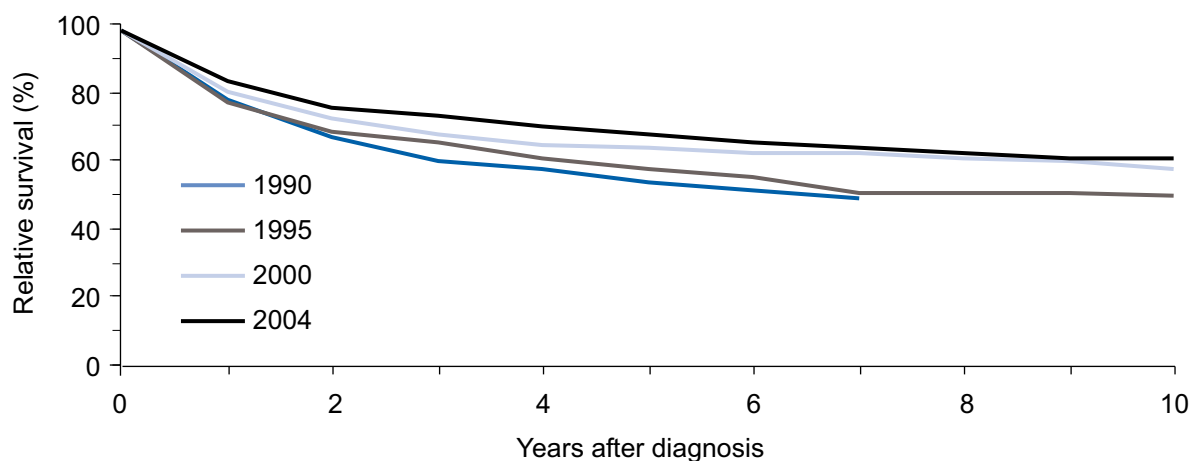
**A clinician's comment** "The improvement in survival is encouraging. It is important to note that, while there has been very little change in the modalities of treatment (radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery) over the 15-year period, there has been a major shift in the philosophy of overall management with a greater emphasis on the multi-disciplinary management of sarcomas. The commitment to multi-disciplinary care in Victoria may, in part, explain the observed improvement in survival."

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

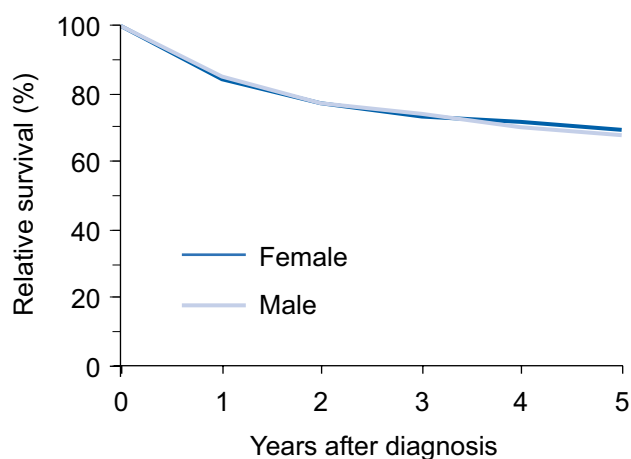
Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		85	(81- 89)	
2		77	(72- 82)	
3		74	(68- 80)	
4		71	(65- 77)	
5		68	(62- 75)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
<b>All cases</b>	306	68	(62-75)	
<b>Sex</b>				0.37
Male	170	68	(59-77)	
Female	136	69	(60-79)	
<b>Age at diagnosis</b>				<0.01
0-44	45	80	(71-90)	
45-54	32	66	(50-82)	
55-64	39	72	(57-87)	
65-74	70	60	(44-76)	
75+	120	58	(42-75)	
<b>Region of residence</b>				0.08
Melbourne	210	70	(62-78)	
Rest of Victoria	95	65	(52-78)	
<b>Selected years</b>				<0.01
1990		56	(47-64)	
1995		66	(59-74)	
2000		60	(53-67)	
2004		68	(62-75)	



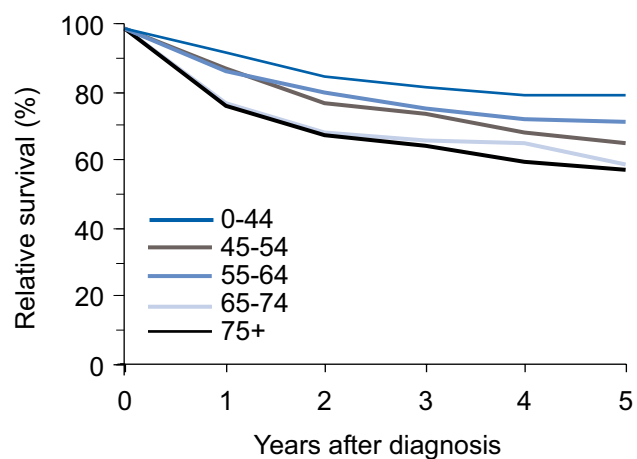
**Figure 1: Survival by year**



**Figure 2: Survival by sex**



**Figure 3: Survival by age group**



# MELANOMA

Note: Analysis includes only invasive cutaneous melanomas (Clark's level 2 to 5).

**The 5-year survival for people with melanoma is 90%.** This is the highest survival of any cancer except testis for males and thyroid for females.

**Sex** Survival was 88% for men and slightly higher (93%) for women.

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

**Regional comparisons** Survival was very similar for residents of Melbourne and the rest of Victoria, with slight variation between the ICS regions.

**Time trends** Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 86% to 90%.

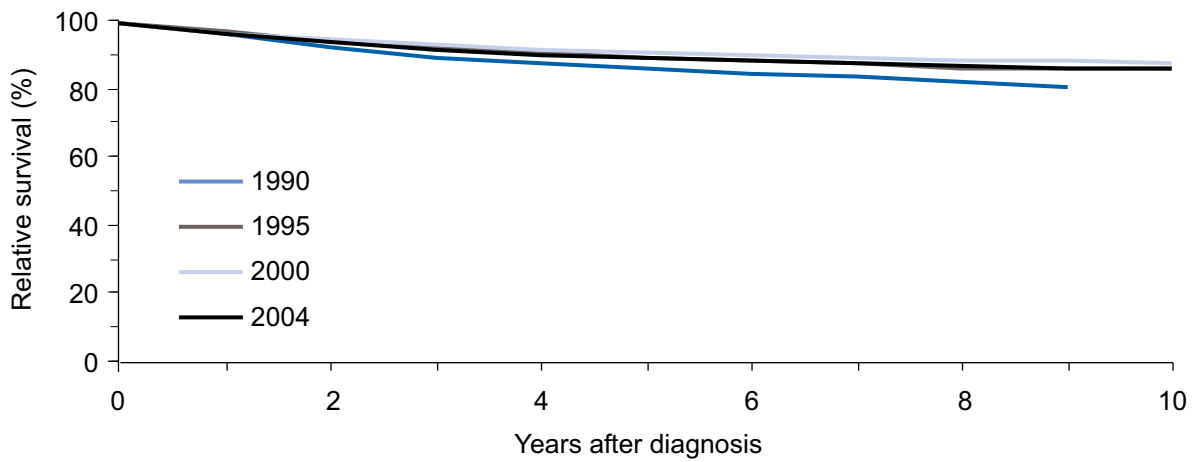
**A clinician's comment** "The excellent survival for melanoma is a reflection of the early diagnosis of this tumour in Australia, which is due to high levels of awareness of the disease. The thickness of the melanoma at diagnosis is a strong predictor of prognosis. The improvement in survival over time is most likely due to earlier detection over time and the sex and age differences are also partly attributable to thicker melanomas diagnosed for men and in the elderly. Survival by stage is not presented in this report and it should be noted that, though survival for early stage melanoma is very high, the median survival for patients with advanced disease is only six to seven months."

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

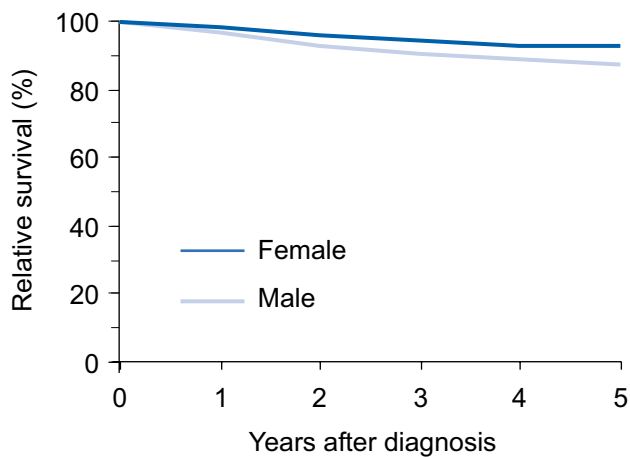
Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		97	(97-98)	
2		94	(93-95)	
3		92	(91-94)	
4		91	(89-92)	
5		90	(88-92)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
<b>All cases</b>				
	1,558	90	(88-92)	
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	1,003	88	(85-90)	<0.01
Female	555	93	(91-95)	
<b>Age at diagnosis</b>				
				<0.01
0-44	125	94	(92-96)	
45-54	117	93	(91-96)	
55-64	181	92	(90-95)	
65-74	371	88	(84-91)	
75+	764	82	(76-89)	
<b>Region of residence</b>				
				<0.01
Melbourne	1,011	91	(89-93)	
Rest of Victoria	546	88	(86-91)	
<b>Integrated Cancer Services Region</b>				
				<0.01
Southern	459	90	(86-93)	
Western & Central	210	86	(81-91)	
North Eastern	342	94	(91-97)	
Barwon South Western	136	89	(83-95)	
Grampians	66	81	(71-92)	
Loddon-Mallee	125	90	(84-95)	
Hume	99	86	(79-93)	
Gippsland	120	90	(84-95)	
<b>Selected years</b>				
				<0.01
1990		86	(84-88)	
1995		90	(89-92)	
2000		92	(90-93)	
2004		90	(88-92)	



**Figure 1: Survival by year**



**Figure 2: Survival by sex**



**Figure 3: Survival by age group**

