

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Note: Includes all malignant tumours of brain, spinal cord, cranial nerves and other central nervous system.

The 5-year survival for people with central nervous system cancers is 23%.

Sex Survival was similar for men and women.

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was strongly associated with worse survival, with estimates of 54% for persons aged under 45 years falling to only 4% for persons aged over 75 years. This may, in part, reflect the different types of tumours occurring in persons at different times of life.

Tumour morphology Survival was higher for astrocytomas (40%) and other gliomas (61%) than for tumours without histological confirmation (27%). Glioblastomas had the poorest survival (4%).

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

Time trends Survival has changed very little over the 15 years from 1990.

A clinician's comment "The survival proportions reflect the nature of these tumour types. There are no surprises regarding gender, age and survival outcomes. The tumour types broadly separate into childhood and adult tumours. The adult tumours are predominantly high-grade gliomas that have a uniformly poor prognosis. In particular, the survival outcomes for those aged over 65 years are particularly poor. The lack of substantive new treatment options is reflected in the constant survival figures over the time period."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex, age group and tumour morphology for Victorians with brain and central nervous system cancer in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		47	(43-50)	
2		30	(27-33)	
3		26	(23-30)	
4		25	(21-28)	
5		23	(20-26)	

By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	1,412	23	(20-26)	
Sex				
Male	814	22	(18-26)	0.43
Female	598	25	(20-30)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-44	198	54	(46-62)	
45-54	211	27	(18-36)	
55-64	290	11	(6-16)	
65-74	353	6	(2-10)	
75+	360	4	(1-7)	
Region of residence				0.01
Melbourne	972	23	(19-27)	
Rest of Victoria	437	24	(18-30)	
Tumour morphology group				<0.01
Glioblastoma	930	4	(2-5)	
Astrocytoma	168	40	(31-50)	
Other glioma	92	61	(51-71)	
Meningioma	8	46	(7-85)	
No histological confirmation	206	27	(17-36)	
Selected years				0.22
1990		23	(20-27)	
1995		21	(18-25)	
2000		24	(20-27)	
2004		23	(20-26)	

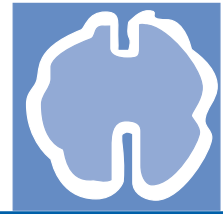


Figure 1: Survival by year

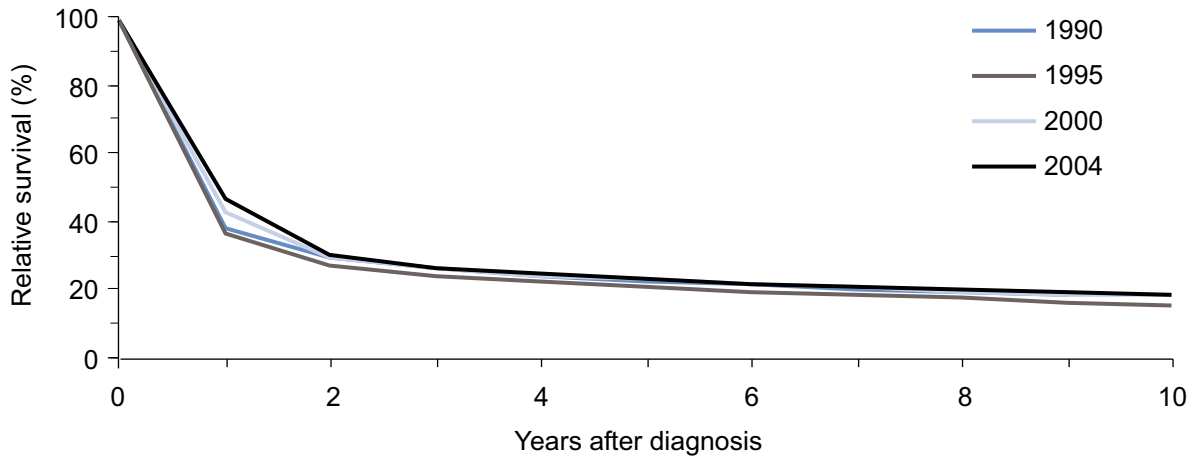


Figure 2: Survival by sex

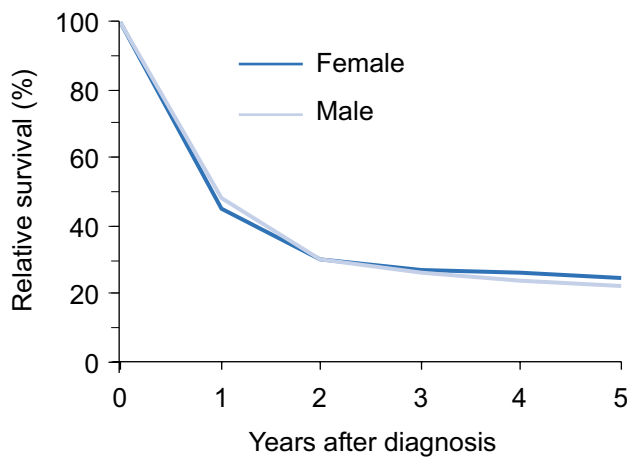


Figure 3: Survival by age group

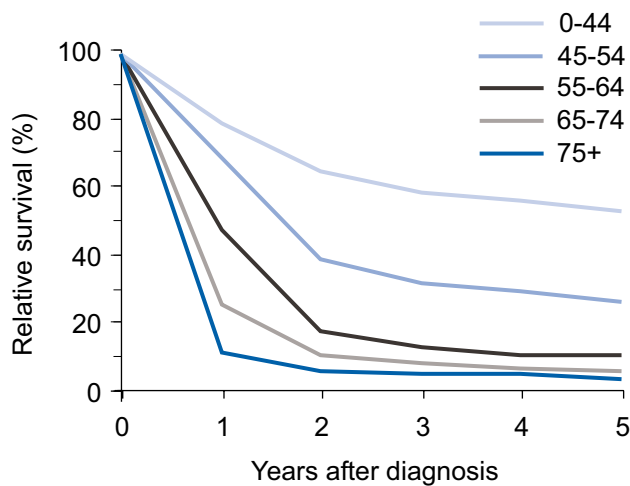
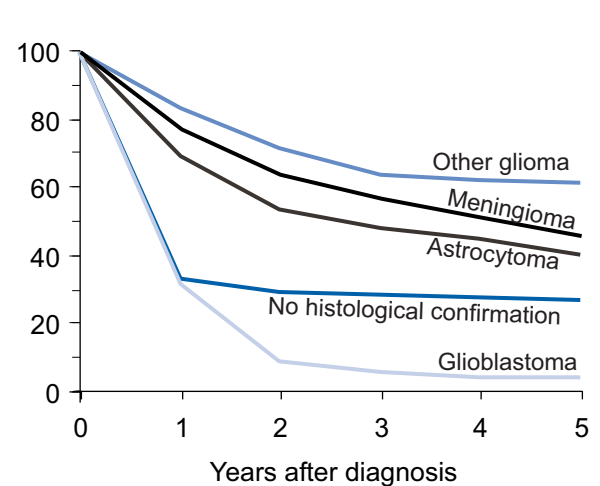


Figure 4: Survival by tumour morphology



THYROID

The 5-year survival for people with thyroid cancer is 93%.

Sex Survival was lower for men (85%) than women (94%, the highest of any cancer).

Age at diagnosis Older age at diagnosis was associated with slightly worse survival, falling from 98% for persons aged under 54 years to 67% for persons aged over 75 years at diagnosis.

Tumour morphology Survival was higher for patients with follicular (96%), papillary (97%) or medullary adenocarcinoma (90%) than for those with other tumours (55%).

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

Time trends Survival improved over the 15 years from 1990 from 84% to 92%.

A clinician's comment "It is difficult to explain the improvement in survival over time except as possibly related to earlier diagnosis and to better surgery. It would be useful to examine the proportion of different morphological types over time. This proportion may influence the overall survival figures."

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

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		96	(94-97)	
2		94	(92-95)	
3		93	(92-95)	
4		93	(91-95)	
5		92	(90-94)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	117	92	(90-94)	
Sex				<0.01
Male	53	85	(80-89)	
Female	64	94	(92-96)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-54	20	98	(96-99)	
55-74	52	84	(79-89)	
75+	45	67	(52-80)	
Region of residence				0.93
Melbourne	86	92	(90-94)	
Rest of Victoria	31	92	(88-96)	
Tumour morphology group				<0.01
Follicular adenocarcinoma	27	96	(93-98)	
Papillary adenocarcinoma	27	97	(95-99)	
Medullary adenocarcinoma	6	90	(76-98)	
Other histology	57	55	(45-64)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		84	(77-90)	
1995		92	(87-96)	
2000		92	(89-96)	
2004		92	(90-94)	



Figure 1: Survival by year

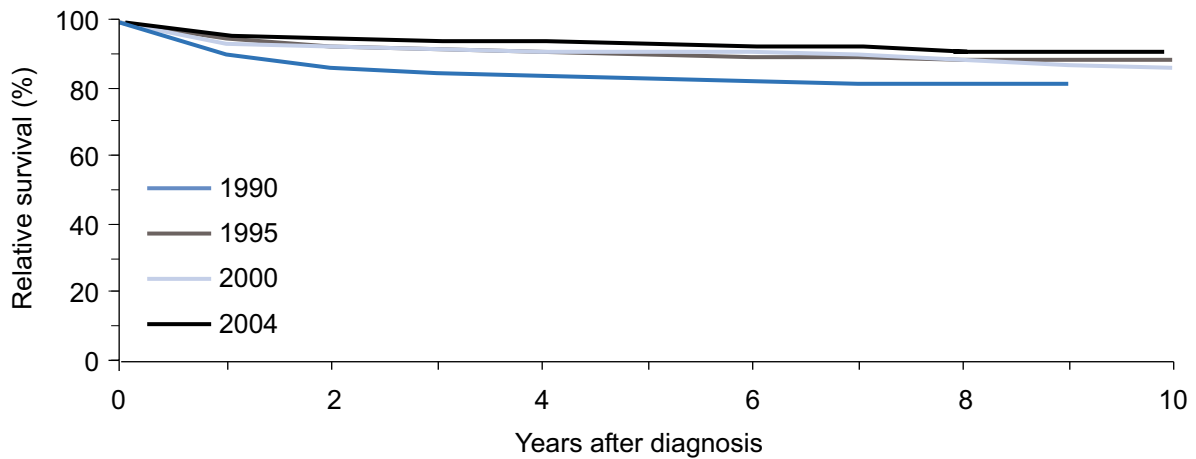


Figure 2: Survival by sex

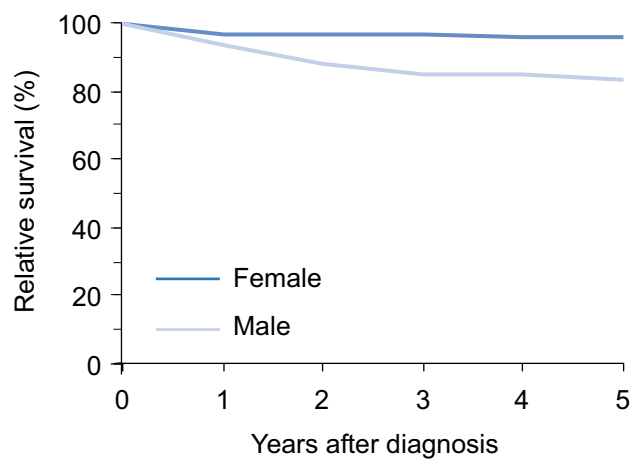


Figure 3: Survival by age group

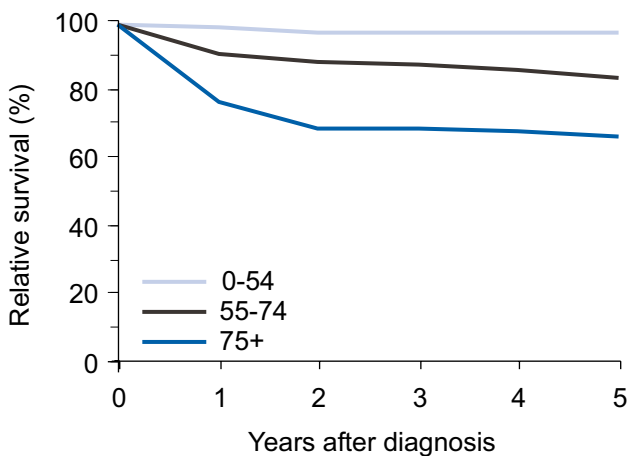
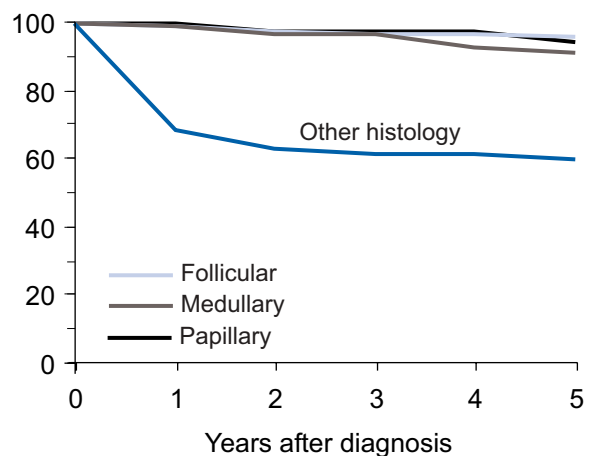


Figure 4: Survival by tumour morphology



UNKNOWN PRIMARY

The 5-year survival for people with cancers of unknown primary site was 11%.

Sex Survival was 14% for men and 7% for women.

Age at diagnosis Survival was poor for all age groups but decreased with increasing age at diagnosis from 29% for patients aged under 45 to 5% for those aged over 75 years at diagnosis.

Tumour morphology Survival differed between tumours of different morphology, with the highest being for squamous and transitional cell carcinomas (43%) and other (14%) and unspecified carcinomas (15%) with lower survival for adenocarcinomas (8%). The poorest survival was seen for tumours without histological confirmation (2%).

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 6% to 11%.

Time trends "This group is likely to become smaller, possibly with poor survival, as improved diagnostic techniques assist in identifying the possible primary site (and hence cases will get classified elsewhere)."

Table 1: Survival by years after diagnosis, sex, age group and tumour morphology for Victorians with cancers of unknown primary site in 2004 and for selected years from 1990.

Years after diagnosis		Survival (%)	95% confidence interval	
1		21	(19-24)	
2		15	(13-17)	
3		13	(11-15)	
4		11	(9-13)	
5		11	(9-12)	
By subgroup	Number of deaths	5-year survival (%)	95% confidence interval	p-value
All cases	2,669	11	(9-12)	
Sex				
Male	1,327	14	(11-17)	<0.01
Female	1,342	7	(5-9)	
Age at diagnosis				<0.01
0-44	87	29	(15-43)	
45-54	171	23	(14-32)	
55-64	341	18	(12-23)	
65-74	686	13	(9-16)	
75+	1,384	5	(3-6)	
Region of residence				0.60
Melbourne	1,816	11	(9-13)	
Rest of Victoria	852	10	(7-13)	
Tumour morphology group				<0.01
Squamous/transitional cell	133	43	(31-56)	
Adenocarcinoma	1,121	8	(6-11)	
Other specific carcinoma	191	14	(7-22)	
Unspecified carcinoma	348	15	(9-21)	
No histological confirmation	862	2	(1-3)	
Selected years				<0.01
1990		6	(5-7)	
1995		7	(5-8)	
2000		6	(5-7)	
2004		11	(9-12)	

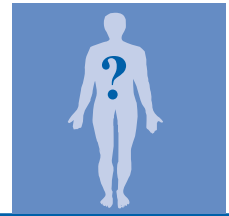


Figure 1: Survival by year

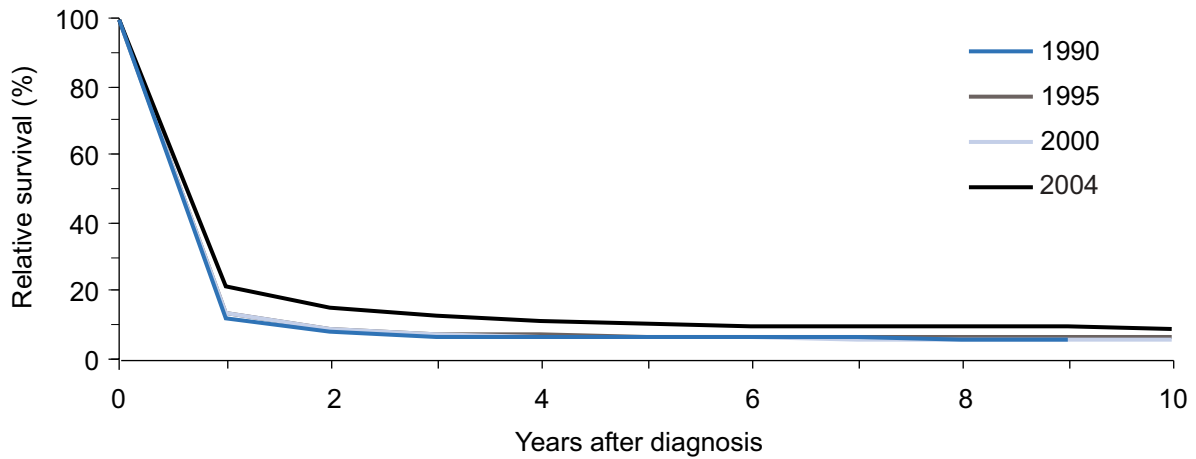


Figure 2: Survival by sex

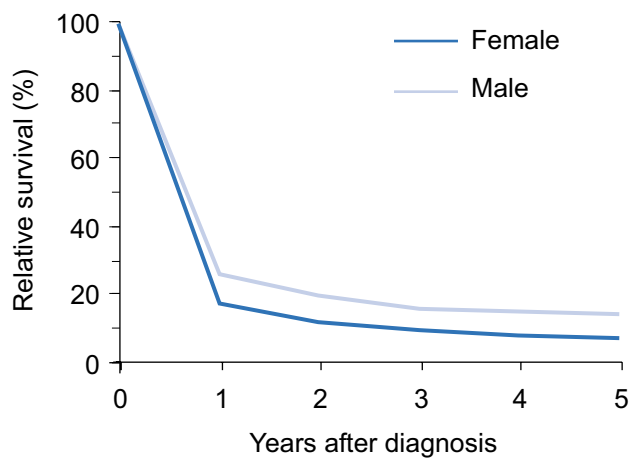


Figure 3: Survival by age group

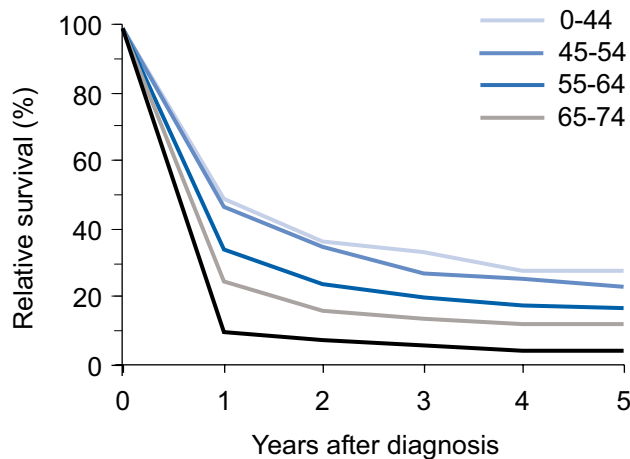


Figure 4: Survival by tumour morphology

