

One year survival for cancer diagnosed following emergency presentation. An update from the *London Cancer A&E* audit

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Background

In the NCIN Routes to Diagnosis (2013), London has a higher rate of cancer diagnosed following an emergency presentation than the national average (24%). These patients often have more advanced cancer than those patients referred along 'managed' pathways. Such late presentation is one reason that cancer survival in England is lower than the European average. *London Cancer*, the integrated cancer system for North Central and East London and West Essex, encompasses a population with amongst the worst 1 year survival rates in England. This study aimed to understand patient and service demographics in more depth. One year from audit end we report on one year mortality.

Methods

Prospective analysis of all cancer diagnoses made following emergency presentation through 12 A&E Departments at 9 acute hospital trusts between January and August 2013. The patients were identified through clinical teams and trust cancer management processes. Details were requested from primary and secondary care records of route to diagnosis, patient demographics, cancer type and treatment intent. One year on, the acute trusts were contacted to complete survival information on their patients. All returns were received by January 2015 for formal statistical analysis.

Results

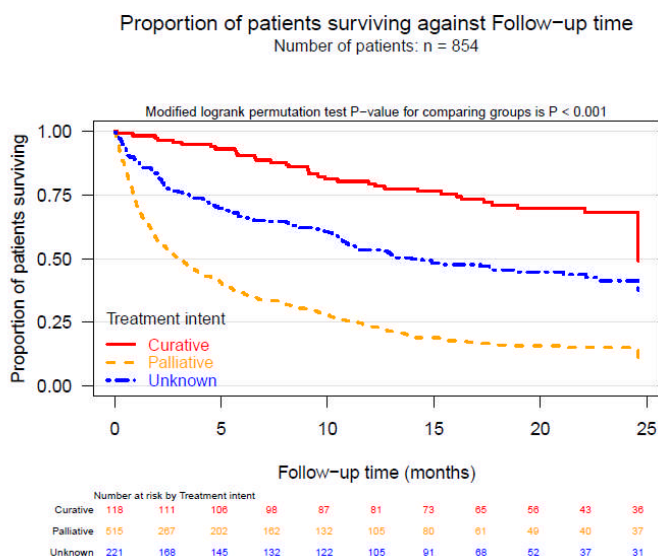
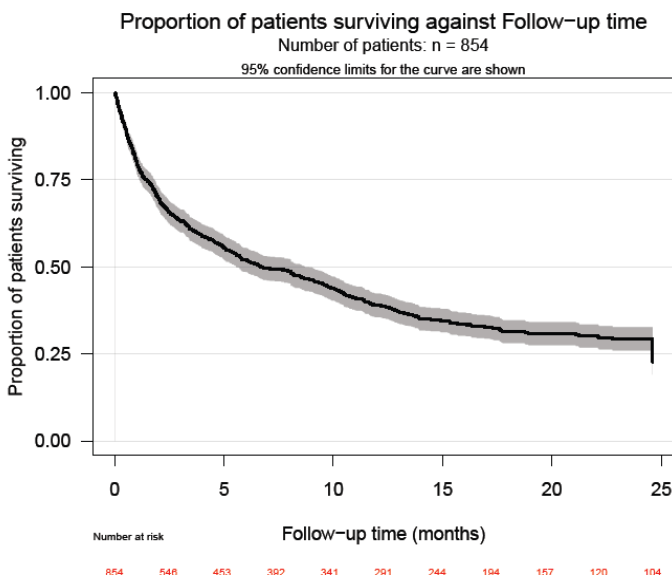
963 patients were identified. This was 13% of patients having a first cancer treatment in the participating trusts in the same period. All trusts returned data on survival. 60 patients had no return (6%). Overall 588 have died (61%). There are mortality differences between cancer types: 40% of colorectal cancer patients have died but 67% and 76% for lung and hepato-pancreato-biliary cancers respectively. Further statistical analysis on one year mortality and survival, broken down by age, cancer types and treatment has been performed.

Analysis

- Only 2 out of 5 patients are alive one year from diagnosis
- The median survival was 6 months following presentation to A&E
- 25% of patients had died within 2 months of presentation
- Most people were treated with palliative intent where the median survival was 2.5 months and only 1 in 4 people were alive a year from presentation
- For those treated with curative intent the median survival is over 2 years and more than 3 in 4 people survive a year emphasising the need for early diagnosis

Conclusions

Cancer diagnosed following emergency presentation is associated with poor survival. These data are informing local initiatives to improve GP access to diagnostics and public/patient awareness of symptoms and services



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