Report to the nation
uterine cancer
2012
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Uterine cancer

This document provides a summary of national statistics on uterine cancer in Australia from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Cancer Australia report *Gynaecological cancers in Australia: an overview.*

**Incidence**

- In 2008, 2,016 cases of uterine cancer were diagnosed, making it the most commonly diagnosed gynaecological cancer in Australia.*
- Overall, uterine cancer ranked 10th in terms of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in women.*
- The risk of a female being diagnosed with uterine cancer by age 85 was 1 in 49.
- The average age at first diagnosis with uterine cancer was 64 years.

- About 63% of uterine cancers were diagnosed in women aged 60 years and over.

**Age at diagnosis of uterine cancer in women in Australia in 2008**

- <50 years: 244 (12%)
- 50-59 years: 496 (25%)
- 60-69 years: 620 (31%)
- 70-79 years: 395 (20%)
- 80+ years: 261 (13%)

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1 All data, including data presented in graphs, are from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Cancer Australia report *Gynaecological cancers in Australia: an overview,* unless otherwise specified.

* (some cases of non-melanoma skin cancer are not reported).
Has the incidence of uterine cancer changed over time?
Between 1982 and 2008:
- The number of new uterine cancers per year more than doubled, and the incidence rate also increased by 22%.²,³
- The greatest rise in incidence rate was for women in the age groups 50 years and over (ranging between 19-26%).

Does the incidence of uterine cancer vary by age group?
- The incidence rate of uterine cancer increased with age to 70-74 years and then declined.


² "Incidence" refers to the actual number of new cancer cases. However, the total number of people in the population may change over time (e.g. from year to year), so to compare changes in the number of new cancer cases over time we calculate the "incidence rate". The "incidence rate" is calculated by taking the number of new cancer cases diagnosed, and dividing it by the number of people in the population who could develop this cancer during a particular period. Similarly, the actual number of deaths (mortality) can also be shown as a "mortality rate".
³ Incidence and mortality rates shown in this document are "age-standardised" which means that the age distribution of the population is also considered. Therefore, any differences we see in these rates are not due to differences in the age distributions of the populations being compared.
Mortality

- Uterine cancer was the second most common cause of gynaecological cancer death with 338 deaths in 2007.
- Overall, uterine cancer ranked 14th in terms of all causes of cancer deaths among women.
- 84% of deaths due to uterine cancer occurred among women aged 60 years and over.
- The chance of a female dying from uterine cancer before the age of 85 was 1 in 275.
- The average age at death from uterine cancer in 2007 was 73 years.

Has mortality from uterine cancer changed over time?

Between 1982 and 2007:
- The number of deaths from uterine cancer increased by 52%, whilst the mortality rate was relatively stable.\(^2,3\)

Does uterine cancer mortality vary by age group?

In 2007:
- The mortality rate for uterine cancer increased with age.

Mortality from uterine cancer in women in Australia in 2007, by age at death.
Survival

Relative survival compares the survival of a group of people diagnosed with cancer to the survival expected for people of a similar age in the general population. Survival rates provide information on the likelihood that a person will still be alive at a specified point in time (usually five years) following a diagnosis of cancer.

Uterine cancer had the highest five-year relative survival of all of the individual gynaecological cancer types (82%). Significant improvements in survival over time were observed for women aged 50 through to 79 between 1982–1987 and 2006–2010.

Five-year relative survival for uterine cancer in women in Australia, 2006-2010.

- 82 out of 100 women survive five years after being diagnosed with uterine cancer.
- Five-year relative survival ranged between 86 to 91% for women under the age of 60, and decreased to 59% for those aged 80 years and over.
- Overall five year relative survival for uterine cancer increased from 75 to 82% from 1982-1987 to 2006-2010.