

Trends in net survival from 15 cancers in six European Latin countries: the SUDCAN population-based study material

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The aim of the SUDCAN collaborative study was to compare the net survival from 15 cancers diagnosed in 2000–2004 in six European Latin countries and provide trends in net survival and dynamics of excess mortality rates up to 5 years after diagnosis from 1992 to 2004 in France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland, and from 2000 to 2004 in Belgium and Portugal. This paper presents a detailed description of the data analyzed and quality indicators. Incident cases from Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland were retrieved from 56 general or specialized population-based cancer registries that participated in the EUROCARE-5 database. Fifteen cancer sites were analyzed. The data were checked according to the EUROCARE protocol. The percentages of excluded cases, cases based on death-certificate only, cases lost to follow-up at 5 years after diagnosis, and the proportions of microscopically verified cases were evaluated across countries and cancer sites. Data exclusions for major flaws were negligible. Cases based on death-certificate only were quite rare, except for some poor-prognosis cancers in some countries. The site-specific proportions of microscopically verified cases were generally high, but slightly lower in Italy than elsewhere. The percentage of cases lost to follow-up at 5 years after diagnosis was generally low. The net survival analyses in 2000–2004 included 873 314 tumors, whereas trend analyses included 1 426 004 tumors. The quality of the

data analyzed was generally good. In fact, the analyzed data have been already checked and accepted for EUROCARE-5. However, slight differences in quality indexes, for some cancers, should be kept in mind in the interpretation of survival comparisons across countries. *European Journal of Cancer Prevention* 25:S3–S8 Copyright © 2016 Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All rights reserved.

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