

DIVERGING TRENDS IN LUNG CANCER SURVIVAL BETWEEN  
MALES AND FEMALES 1999-2008

Sharma P Riaz  
Karen M Linklater  
Henrik Møller  
Margreet Lüchtenborg



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# 1. Introduction

In 2009, lung cancer was the second most common cancer in males and third most common amongst females in the UK with age-standardised incidence rates of 58.8 and 39.3 per 100,000 European standard population.[1] The one-year survival rate for patients diagnosed between 2005 and 2009 was higher among females (33.0%) than males (29.4%).[1] Although there have been reports of increasing lung cancer survival in England, the survival remains higher for females than males.[2-4]

Several factors may explain the difference in survival between males and females. In general, females have lower mortality and higher life expectancy than males. In addition, the age distribution of male and female lung cancer patients may be different, there may be a difference in socioeconomic factors, the distribution of histological type of lung cancer, and severity of comorbidity between males and females, and females may be more likely to undergo surgery.

In this report, we analysed whether the rate of improvement in lung cancer survival was similar among males and females in the period 1999 to 2008, and assessed which factors may explain the difference in survival improvement between males and females over this period.

## 2. Methods

### Data

In England, information on all cancer diagnoses is collected by the eight regional cancer registries (Eastern Cancer Registration and Information Centre, North West Cancer Intelligence Service, Northern and Yorkshire Cancer Registry and Information Service, Oxford Cancer Intelligence Unit, South West Cancer Intelligence Service, Thames Cancer Registry, Trent Cancer Registry and West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit). Data collected from the different registries is quality-assured before being merged into the National Cancer Data Repository (NCDR). The data are then linked with the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) records. Information on death of cancer patients is received from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

We extracted data on 317,238 lung cancers (ICD-10 C33-C34) diagnosed in England between 1999 and 2008 from the NCDR. We excluded 17,244 (5%) lung cancers identified from a death certificate only, 933 patients with a missing NHS number, and only included the first lung cancer diagnosis of each patient, which led to the exclusion of a further 1,098 lung cancers. The final analyses were based on 297,963 patients.

Information on surgery for patients with a diagnosis of lung cancer was derived from linked HES inpatient and day-case records. Surgical procedures are coded according to codes from the Office Population, Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Procedures, 4th version (OPCS-4).[5] Surgical procedures were classified as indicated in the Appendix Table 1.

In the analyses presented here, morphology was coded using the third edition of the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O-3). [6] These were then classified into small-cell, adenocarcinoma, large cell, non-small cell, squamous cell carcinoma, other specified, and unspecified lung cancer groups as indicated in Appendix Table 2.

Socioeconomic deprivation was based on the income domain of the Indices of Deprivation (ID) by lower super output areas (each comprising a population of around 1500 people), and grouped into quintiles. Each patient was then assigned to a socioeconomic deprivation quintile based on their postcode of residence. ID 2004 [7] was used for patients diagnosed between 1999 and 2002, ID 2007 [8] for patients diagnosed between 2003 to 2006 and ID 2010 for patients diagnosed between 2007 to 2008 [9].

For each patient, comorbidity information was obtained using diagnosis codes recorded in HES. All diagnoses from two years before to three months after the patient's date of diagnosis were classified according to the scores from the weighted Charlson comorbidity index,[10] and modified to exclude cancer as a comorbid condition. The resulting scores were aggregated into four categories of increasing severity of comorbidity (0, 1, 2, and 3+).

## **Statistical analysis**

The number and proportions of patients in each age group, socioeconomic deprivation, comorbidity, histology and surgery were calculated by sex and year of diagnosis.

The Kaplan-Meier method was used to calculate one-year survival estimates by year of diagnosis and sex. Patients were divided into two groups based on the median age at diagnosis, and thus consisted of a <75 and ≥75 year age group. We used a log-rank test (at 5% significance level) to test the null hypothesis that survival in the <75 and ≥75 year age groups is identical between males and females across the 10-year study period.

Since the Kaplan-Meier survival graphs indicated a divergence in one-year survival between males and females in the <75 age group only, we further analysed that group to identify potential factors that may explain the divergence, using Cox proportional hazards modelling. The basic model included sex, diagnosis year and an interaction term between sex and diagnosis year. We then adjusted the analysis for five-year age group, socioeconomic deprivation, histology, comorbidity and surgery separately to investigate which factor may explain the divergence. Survival time was calculated from date of diagnosis until date of death or censored at one-year.

### 3. Results

Table 1a: Number of lung cancer patients by sex and year of diagnosis, England, 1999-2008

|                                  | 1999   |        | 2000   |        | 2001   |        | 2002   |        | 2003   |        | 2004   |        | 2005   |        | 2006   |        | 2007   |        | 2008   |        |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
|                                  | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female | Male   | Female |  |  |
| <b>Age group</b>                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| Total                            | 17,823 | 10,977 | 17,962 | 11,380 | 17,789 | 11,467 | 17,183 | 11,438 | 16,981 | 11,889 | 17,537 | 11,997 | 17,890 | 12,528 | 17,869 | 13,040 | 17,809 | 13,426 | 17,765 | 13,713 |  |  |
| 0-54                             | 1,275  | 968    | 1,291  | 1,048  | 1,280  | 1,034  | 1,165  | 1,003  | 1,096  | 955    | 1,146  | 996    | 1,132  | 1,007  | 1,138  | 997    | 1,099  | 975    | 1,057  | 1,004  |  |  |
| 55-59                            | 1,288  | 760    | 1,325  | 800    | 1,313  | 821    | 1,371  | 876    | 1,314  | 926    | 1,378  | 952    | 1,342  | 998    | 1,351  | 1,074  | 1,292  | 1,038  | 1,203  | 979    |  |  |
| 60-64                            | 2,029  | 1,083  | 2,037  | 1,115  | 1,975  | 1,148  | 1,967  | 1,146  | 1,933  | 1,181  | 2,034  | 1,208  | 2,017  | 1,339  | 2,135  | 1,386  | 2,106  | 1,598  | 2,097  | 1,669  |  |  |
| 65-69                            | 2,758  | 1,567  | 2,838  | 1,607  | 2,722  | 1,442  | 2,597  | 1,396  | 2,581  | 1,535  | 2,642  | 1,649  | 2,632  | 1,725  | 2,646  | 1,740  | 2,657  | 1,821  | 2,684  | 1,842  |  |  |
| 70-74                            | 3,726  | 2,314  | 3,608  | 2,240  | 3,455  | 2,193  | 3,310  | 2,159  | 3,207  | 2,030  | 3,180  | 2,034  | 3,061  | 2,025  | 3,076  | 2,082  | 3,044  | 2,065  | 3,131  | 2,135  |  |  |
| 75-79                            | 3,634  | 2,241  | 3,620  | 2,204  | 3,527  | 2,266  | 3,335  | 2,360  | 3,296  | 2,333  | 3,382  | 2,300  | 3,229  | 2,369  | 3,397  | 2,370  | 3,270  | 2,326  | 3,211  | 2,463  |  |  |
| 80-84                            | 1,896  | 1,163  | 2,021  | 1,385  | 2,160  | 1,524  | 2,219  | 1,514  | 2,348  | 1,837  | 2,483  | 1,792  | 2,484  | 1,884  | 2,528  | 2,015  | 2,620  | 2,037  | 2,517  | 2,041  |  |  |
| 85+                              | 1,217  | 881    | 1,222  | 981    | 1,357  | 1,039  | 1,219  | 984    | 1,206  | 1,092  | 1,292  | 1,066  | 1,493  | 1,181  | 1,598  | 1,376  | 1,721  | 1,566  | 1,865  | 1,580  |  |  |
| <b>Socioeconomic deprivation</b> |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| 1 (most affluent)                | 2,321  | 1,415  | 2,458  | 1,399  | 2,367  | 1,365  | 2,406  | 1,446  | 2,421  | 1,512  | 2,391  | 1,577  | 2,444  | 1,668  | 2,522  | 1,747  | 2,530  | 1,806  | 2,533  | 1,809  |  |  |
| 2                                | 2,989  | 1,748  | 3,054  | 1,867  | 3,111  | 1,861  | 2,979  | 1,885  | 2,924  | 2,051  | 3,143  | 1,997  | 3,047  | 2,199  | 3,217  | 2,150  | 3,247  | 2,305  | 3,167  | 2,404  |  |  |
| 3                                | 3,504  | 2,115  | 3,568  | 2,226  | 3,511  | 2,288  | 3,371  | 2,155  | 3,412  | 2,361  | 3,493  | 2,370  | 3,558  | 2,529  | 3,625  | 2,676  | 3,537  | 2,731  | 3,595  | 2,751  |  |  |
| 4                                | 4,161  | 2,537  | 4,007  | 2,648  | 4,019  | 2,713  | 3,947  | 2,736  | 3,939  | 2,717  | 4,025  | 2,821  | 3,888  | 2,894  | 4,023  | 3,044  | 4,006  | 3,090  | 3,991  | 3,150  |  |  |
| 5 (most deprived)                | 4,848  | 3,162  | 4,895  | 3,240  | 4,781  | 3,240  | 4,480  | 3,216  | 4,285  | 3,248  | 4,485  | 3,232  | 4,453  | 3,238  | 4,482  | 3,423  | 4,489  | 3,494  | 4,479  | 3,599  |  |  |
| <b>Histology</b>                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| Adenocarcinoma                   | 2,583  | 1,999  | 2,743  | 2,114  | 2,852  | 2,232  | 2,693  | 2,261  | 2,766  | 2,334  | 2,933  | 2,502  | 2,954  | 2,630  | 3,166  | 2,793  | 3,314  | 3,049  | 3,309  | 3,213  |  |  |
| Large cell                       | 735    | 432    | 746    | 428    | 488    | 285    | 359    | 232    | 359    | 236    | 311    | 237    | 284    | 201    | 272    | 199    | 198    | 163    | 218    | 158    |  |  |
| Non-small cell                   | 108    | 47     | 407    | 241    | 1,093  | 703    | 1,804  | 1,100  | 1,892  | 1,273  | 2,129  | 1,309  | 2,387  | 1,528  | 2,601  | 1,766  | 2,744  | 1,966  | 3,091  | 2,256  |  |  |
| Squamous cell carcinoma          | 5,794  | 2,375  | 5,449  | 2,374  | 4,967  | 2,194  | 4,682  | 2,034  | 4,390  | 1,990  | 4,412  | 1,866  | 4,101  | 1,903  | 4,155  | 1,863  | 4,198  | 1,894  | 3,959  | 1,831  |  |  |
| Small-cell                       | 2,213  | 1,730  | 2,296  | 1,784  | 2,208  | 1,638  | 2,155  | 1,655  | 1,968  | 1,650  | 2,060  | 1,716  | 2,027  | 1,757  | 2,064  | 1,783  | 2,092  | 1,716  | 1,991  | 1,730  |  |  |
| Other specified                  | 31     | 17     | 30     | 20     | 35     | 14     | 33     | 19     | 26     | 18     | 36     | 23     | 32     | 22     | 34     | 22     | 26     | 24     | 32     | 26     |  |  |
| Unspecified                      | 6,359  | 4,377  | 6,291  | 4,419  | 6,146  | 4,401  | 5,457  | 4,137  | 5,580  | 4,388  | 5,656  | 4,344  | 5,605  | 4,487  | 5,577  | 4,614  | 5,237  | 4,614  | 5,165  | 4,499  |  |  |
| <b>Co-morbidity</b>              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| 0                                | 10,459 | 6,752  | 10,317 | 6,739  | 10,063 | 6,762  | 9,559  | 6,581  | 9,152  | 6,712  | 9,239  | 6,649  | 8,484  | 6,555  | 8,450  | 6,513  | 7,902  | 6,482  | 7,627  | 6,266  |  |  |
| 1                                | 3,748  | 2,118  | 3,857  | 2,306  | 3,980  | 2,472  | 3,926  | 2,644  | 4,080  | 2,810  | 4,369  | 2,926  | 4,691  | 3,307  | 4,950  | 3,548  | 5,166  | 3,696  | 5,160  | 4,041  |  |  |
| 2                                | 1,031  | 518    | 1,132  | 634    | 1,208  | 630    | 1,292  | 709    | 1,404  | 758    | 1,582  | 852    | 1,723  | 1,033  | 1,872  | 1,179  | 1,943  | 1,291  | 2,080  | 1,373  |  |  |
| 3+                               | 534    | 231    | 655    | 294    | 696    | 310    | 744    | 323    | 787    | 390    | 930    | 429    | 1,078  | 512    | 1,282  | 659    | 1,495  | 792    | 1,578  | 909    |  |  |
| Missing                          | 2,051  | 1,358  | 2,001  | 1,407  | 1,842  | 1,293  | 1,662  | 1,181  | 1,558  | 1,219  | 1,417  | 1,141  | 1,414  | 1,121  | 1,315  | 1,141  | 1,303  | 1,165  | 1,320  | 1,124  |  |  |
| <b>Surgery</b>                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |  |  |
| No                               | 16,374 | 10,179 | 16,495 | 10,502 | 16,334 | 10,517 | 15,792 | 10,514 | 15,631 | 10,908 | 16,148 | 11,078 | 16,001 | 11,489 | 16,410 | 11,943 | 16,227 | 12,195 | 16,172 | 12,363 |  |  |
| Yes                              | 1,449  | 798    | 1,467  | 878    | 1,455  | 950    | 1,391  | 924    | 1,350  | 981    | 1,389  | 919    | 1,389  | 1,039  | 1,459  | 1,097  | 1,582  | 1,231  | 1,593  | 1,350  |  |  |

\*Using ID 2004 for patients diagnosed between 1999 and 2002, ID 2007 for patient diagnosed between 2003-2006 and ID 2010 for patients diagnosed between 2007-2008

Table 1b: Proportion of lung cancer patients by sex and year of diagnosis, England, 1999-2008

|                                   | 1999 |        | 2000 |        | 2001 |        | 2002 |        | 2003 |        | 2004 |        | 2005 |        | 2006 |        | 2007 |        | 2008 |        |  |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|--|
|                                   | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |  |
| <b>Age group</b>                  |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |  |
| Total                             | 61.9 | 38.1   | 61.2 | 38.8   | 60.8 | 39.2   | 60.0 | 40.0   | 58.8 | 41.2   | 59.4 | 40.6   | 58.1 | 41.9   | 57.8 | 42.2   | 57.0 | 43.0   | 56.4 | 43.6   |  |
| 0-54                              | 7.2  | 8.8    | 7.2  | 9.2    | 7.2  | 9.0    | 6.8  | 8.8    | 6.5  | 8.0    | 6.5  | 8.3    | 6.5  | 8.0    | 6.4  | 7.7    | 6.2  | 7.3    | 6.0  | 7.3    |  |
| 55-59                             | 7.2  | 6.9    | 7.4  | 7.0    | 7.4  | 7.2    | 8.0  | 7.7    | 7.7  | 7.8    | 7.9  | 7.9    | 7.7  | 8.0    | 7.6  | 8.2    | 7.3  | 7.7    | 6.8  | 7.1    |  |
| 60-64                             | 11.4 | 9.9    | 11.3 | 9.8    | 11.1 | 10.0   | 11.5 | 10.0   | 11.4 | 9.9    | 11.6 | 10.1   | 11.6 | 10.7   | 12.0 | 10.6   | 11.8 | 11.9   | 11.8 | 12.2   |  |
| 65-69                             | 15.5 | 14.3   | 15.8 | 14.1   | 15.3 | 14.6   | 15.1 | 12.2   | 15.2 | 12.9   | 15.1 | 13.8   | 15.1 | 13.8   | 14.8 | 13.3   | 14.9 | 13.6   | 15.1 | 13.4   |  |
| 70-74                             | 20.9 | 21.1   | 20.1 | 19.7   | 19.4 | 19.1   | 19.3 | 18.9   | 18.9 | 17.1   | 18.1 | 17.0   | 17.6 | 16.2   | 17.2 | 16.0   | 17.1 | 15.4   | 17.6 | 15.6   |  |
| 75-79                             | 20.4 | 20.4   | 20.2 | 19.4   | 19.8 | 19.8   | 19.4 | 20.6   | 19.4 | 19.6   | 19.3 | 19.2   | 18.6 | 18.9   | 19.0 | 18.2   | 18.4 | 17.3   | 18.1 | 18.0   |  |
| 80-84                             | 10.6 | 10.6   | 11.3 | 12.2   | 12.1 | 13.3   | 12.9 | 13.2   | 13.8 | 15.5   | 14.2 | 14.9   | 14.3 | 15.0   | 14.2 | 15.5   | 14.7 | 15.2   | 14.2 | 14.9   |  |
| 85+                               | 6.8  | 8.0    | 6.8  | 8.6    | 7.6  | 9.1    | 7.1  | 8.6    | 7.1  | 9.2    | 7.4  | 8.9    | 8.6  | 9.4    | 8.9  | 10.6   | 9.7  | 11.7   | 10.5 | 11.5   |  |
| <b>*Socioeconomic deprivation</b> |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |  |
| 1 (most affluent)                 | 13.0 | 12.9   | 13.7 | 12.3   | 13.3 | 11.9   | 14.0 | 12.6   | 14.3 | 12.7   | 13.6 | 13.1   | 14.1 | 13.3   | 14.1 | 13.4   | 14.2 | 13.5   | 14.3 | 13.2   |  |
| 2                                 | 16.8 | 15.9   | 16.9 | 16.4   | 17.5 | 16.2   | 17.3 | 16.5   | 17.2 | 17.3   | 17.9 | 16.7   | 17.5 | 17.6   | 18.0 | 16.5   | 18.2 | 17.2   | 17.8 | 17.5   |  |
| 3                                 | 19.7 | 19.3   | 19.9 | 19.6   | 19.7 | 20.0   | 19.6 | 18.8   | 19.6 | 18.8   | 19.9 | 19.8   | 20.5 | 20.2   | 20.3 | 20.5   | 19.9 | 20.3   | 20.2 | 20.1   |  |
| 4                                 | 23.4 | 23.1   | 22.3 | 23.3   | 22.6 | 23.7   | 23.0 | 23.9   | 23.2 | 22.9   | 23.0 | 23.5   | 22.4 | 23.1   | 22.5 | 23.3   | 22.5 | 23.0   | 22.5 | 23.0   |  |
| 5 (most deprived)                 | 27.2 | 28.8   | 27.3 | 28.5   | 26.9 | 28.3   | 26.1 | 28.1   | 25.2 | 27.3   | 25.6 | 26.9   | 25.6 | 25.9   | 25.1 | 26.3   | 25.2 | 26.0   | 25.2 | 26.3   |  |
| <b>Histology</b>                  |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |  |
| Adenocarcinoma                    | 14.5 | 18.2   | 15.3 | 18.6   | 16.0 | 19.5   | 15.7 | 19.8   | 16.3 | 19.6   | 16.7 | 20.9   | 17.0 | 21.0   | 17.7 | 21.4   | 18.6 | 22.7   | 18.6 | 23.4   |  |
| Large cell                        | 4.1  | 3.9    | 4.2  | 3.8    | 2.7  | 2.5    | 2.1  | 2.0    | 2.1  | 2.0    | 1.8  | 2.0    | 1.6  | 1.6    | 1.5  | 1.5    | 1.1  | 1.2    | 1.2  | 1.2    |  |
| Non-small cell                    | 0.6  | 0.4    | 2.3  | 2.1    | 6.1  | 6.1    | 10.5 | 9.6    | 11.1 | 10.7   | 12.1 | 10.9   | 13.7 | 12.2   | 14.6 | 13.5   | 15.4 | 14.6   | 17.4 | 16.5   |  |
| Squamous cell carcinoma           | 32.5 | 21.6   | 30.3 | 20.9   | 27.9 | 19.1   | 27.3 | 17.8   | 25.9 | 16.7   | 25.2 | 15.6   | 23.6 | 15.2   | 23.3 | 14.3   | 23.6 | 14.1   | 22.3 | 13.4   |  |
| Small-cell                        | 12.4 | 15.8   | 12.8 | 15.7   | 12.4 | 14.3   | 12.5 | 14.5   | 11.6 | 13.9   | 11.8 | 14.3   | 11.7 | 14.0   | 11.6 | 13.7   | 11.8 | 12.8   | 11.2 | 12.6   |  |
| Other s specified                 | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.1    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    | 0.2  | 0.2    |  |
| Unspecified                       | 35.7 | 39.9   | 35.0 | 38.8   | 34.6 | 38.4   | 31.8 | 36.2   | 32.9 | 36.9   | 32.3 | 36.2   | 32.2 | 35.8   | 31.2 | 35.4   | 29.4 | 34.4   | 29.1 | 32.8   |  |
| <b>Co-morbidity</b>               |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |  |
| 0                                 | 58.7 | 61.5   | 57.4 | 59.2   | 56.6 | 59.0   | 55.6 | 57.5   | 53.9 | 56.5   | 52.7 | 55.4   | 48.8 | 52.3   | 47.3 | 50.0   | 44.4 | 48.3   | 42.9 | 45.7   |  |
| 1                                 | 21.0 | 19.3   | 21.5 | 20.3   | 22.4 | 21.6   | 22.9 | 23.1   | 24.0 | 23.6   | 24.9 | 24.4   | 27.0 | 26.4   | 27.7 | 27.2   | 29.0 | 27.5   | 29.1 | 29.5   |  |
| 2                                 | 5.8  | 4.7    | 6.3  | 5.6    | 6.8  | 5.5    | 7.5  | 6.2    | 8.3  | 6.4    | 9.0  | 7.1    | 9.9  | 8.3    | 10.5 | 9.0    | 10.9 | 9.6    | 11.7 | 10.0   |  |
| 3+                                | 3.0  | 2.1    | 3.7  | 2.6    | 3.9  | 2.7    | 4.3  | 2.8    | 4.6  | 3.3    | 5.3  | 3.6    | 6.2  | 4.1    | 7.2  | 5.1    | 8.4  | 5.9    | 8.9  | 6.6    |  |
| Missing                           | 11.5 | 12.4   | 11.1 | 12.4   | 10.4 | 11.3   | 9.7  | 10.3   | 9.2  | 10.3   | 8.1  | 9.5    | 8.1  | 9.0    | 7.4  | 8.8    | 7.3  | 8.7    | 7.4  | 8.2    |  |
| <b>Surgery</b>                    |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |  |
| No                                | 91.9 | 92.7   | 91.8 | 92.3   | 91.8 | 91.7   | 91.9 | 91.9   | 92.1 | 91.8   | 92.1 | 92.3   | 92.0 | 91.7   | 91.8 | 91.6   | 91.1 | 90.8   | 91.0 | 90.2   |  |
| Yes                               | 8.1  | 7.3    | 8.2  | 7.7    | 8.2  | 8.3    | 8.1  | 8.1    | 8.0  | 8.3    | 7.9  | 7.7    | 8.0  | 8.3    | 8.2  | 8.4    | 8.9  | 9.2    | 9.0  | 9.8    |  |

\*Using ID 2004 for patients diagnosed between 1999 and 2002, ID 2007 for patient diagnosed between 2003-2006 and ID 2010 for patients diagnosed between 2007-2008

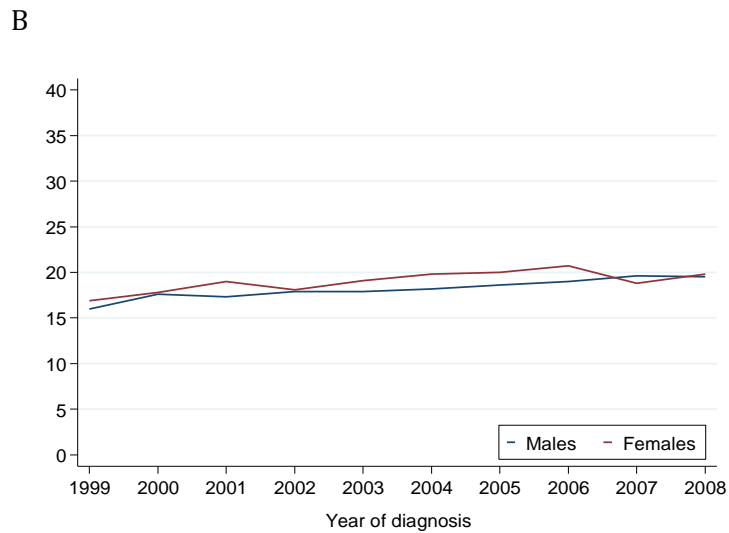
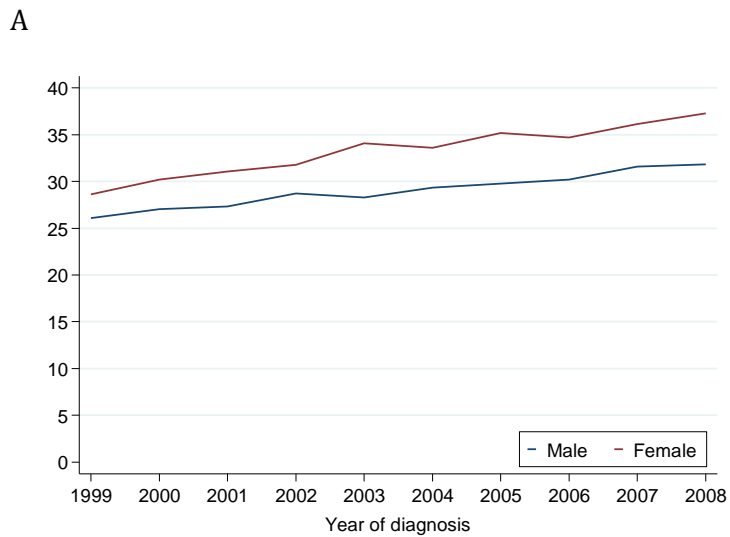


Table 1: One-year survival estimates (%) in lung cancer, by year of diagnosis and sex in the <75 year age group (A), and in the ≥75 year age group (B), England, 1999-2008.



Table 2: Hazard ratio and 95% confidence interval for patients diagnosed among the <75 year age group, England, 1999-2008

|   | Model 1                | Model 2                | Model 3                | Model 4                | Model 5                | Model 6                | Model 7                | Model 8                |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Sex and diagnosis year interaction</b> |                        |                        | 0.993*** (0.989-0.997) | 0.994** (0.990-0.998)  | 0.993*** (0.989-0.997) | 0.995* (0.991-0.999)   | 0.993*** (0.990-0.997) | 0.997 (0.993-1.001)    |
| <b>Sex</b>                                |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Male                                      | 1.000                  |                        | 1.000                  | 1.000                  | 1.000                  | 1.000                  | 1.000                  | 1.000                  |
| Female                                    | 0.884*** (0.873-0.894) |                        | 0.923*** (0.901-0.946) | 0.929*** (0.906-0.952) | 0.921*** (0.899-0.944) | 0.889*** (0.867-0.911) | 0.930*** (0.908-0.954) | 0.913*** (0.891-0.936) |
| <b>Diagnosis year trend</b>               |                        | 0.980*** (0.978-0.982) | 0.983*** (0.981-0.986) | 0.983*** (0.981-0.986) | 0.983*** (0.981-0.986) | 0.986*** (0.983-0.988) | 0.981*** (0.979-0.984) | 0.983*** (0.981-0.985) |

a) Using IMD2004 for patients diagnosed between 1999 and 2002, IMD2007 for patient diagnosed between 2003 and 2006, IMD2010 for patients diagnosed between 2007 and 2008

b) HR analysis excludes missing

Model 1: Sex (unadjusted)

Model 2: Diagnosis year (unadjusted)

Model 3: Sex, diagnosis year and interaction between sex and year of diagnosis

Model 4: Sex, diagnosis year, interaction between sex and year of diagnosis and age of diagnosis

Model 5: Sex, diagnosis year, interaction between sex and year of diagnosis and socioeconomic deprivation

Model 6: Sex, diagnosis year, interaction between sex and year of diagnosis histology

Model 7: Sex, diagnosis year, interaction between sex and year of diagnosis and co-morbidity

Model 8: Sex, diagnosis year, interaction between sex and year of diagnosis and surgery

\*\*\* p<0.001

\*\*0.001<p<0.01

\*0.01<p<0.05

## Patient characteristics

A total of 297,963 lung cancer patients were included in the analysis. Patient characteristics are listed in Table 1. Overall, 176,108 (59.1%) were males and 121,855 (40.9%) were females. However, over the 10-year study period there was a decrease in the proportion of male lung cancer patients from 61.9% in 1999 to 56.4% in 2008, and an increase in the proportion of female lung cancer patients from 38.1% to 43.6%. Males and females had a median age at diagnosis of 72 and 73, respectively.

The proportion of patients with lung cancer was higher in the most deprived areas compared to the most affluent areas. Between 1999 and 2008 the proportion of lung cancer in the affluent areas increased from 13.0% to 14.3% among males, and from 12.9% to 13.2% among females. In contrast, the proportion of lung cancer patients in the most deprived areas decreased from 27.2% to 25.2% in males and from 28.8% to 26.3% in females.

Among females, adenocarcinoma was the most frequently diagnosed histological type and among males it was squamous cell lung cancer. Large cell was the least frequent cell type in both males and females. The proportion of patients who were diagnosed with large cell, squamous cell and small cell decreased, while the proportion of patients with adenocarcinoma increased from 14.5% to 18.6% among males and from 18.2% to 23.4% among females over the 10-year study.

The proportion of patients with comorbid conditions increased between 1999 and 2008. The proportion of male lung cancer patients without comorbidity decreased from 11.5% to 7.4% in males and from 12.4% to 8.2% in females.

More males and more females underwent surgical resection between 1999 and 2008; however, the increase was greater among females. In the most recent year a higher proportion of females (9.8%) underwent surgery compared to males (9.0%).

## Survival

Figure 1 presents the one-year lung cancer survival among the <75 age group (A) and the ≥75 age group (B) by year of diagnosis and sex. Survival of lung cancer was lower in the ≥75 age group compared to the <75 age group. Between 1999 and 2008 there was a significant difference in one-year survival between males and females in the <75 age group (log-rank test:  $\chi^2=437.32$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), and survival between males and females diverged over the time period. Over the 10-year period in the ≥75 age group there was a significant difference between males and females (log-rank test:  $\chi^2=13.80$ ,  $p=0.0002$ ), but there was no indication of divergence in survival between males and females.

Table 3 illustrates the survival analysis among the <75 age group ( $n=174,426$  (58.5%)) by sex (Model 1), diagnosis year (Model 2), the basic interaction model for divergence (Model 3) and the adjusted models (Model 4-Model 9).

Female lung cancer patients had a significantly lower hazard ratio overall of 0.88 (95% CI (0.87-0.89)) compared with males (Model 1). There was a 2% decrease in relative risk of death per year

among patients with lung cancer (Model 2). Confirming what was observed in the graph (Figure 1B), our basic model (Model 3) indicated there was a significant interaction between sex and diagnosis year in the <75 year age group (Wald test  $p < 0.001$ ), confirming the divergence in survival between males and females over time.

Adjustment for five-year age (Model 4), socioeconomic deprivation (Model 5) and comorbidity (Model 7) did not materially change the estimates and the interaction term remained significant, indicating that these factors are unlikely to explain the divergence in survival by sex over time. Histological type appeared to explain the divergence to some extent (Model 6, Wald test for the interaction term  $p = 0.019$ ). However, surgery appeared to explain most of the divergence in survival over time by sex as the interaction term was non-significant (Model 8, Wald test for the interaction term  $p = 0.397$ ).

## 4. Conclusion

This report shows the improvement in one-year survival of lung cancer patients over the ten-year period 1999-2008. Although female lung cancer survival is higher than male lung cancer survival, this difference was greater in the younger age group. Moreover, we observed that the improvement in one-year survival over time was greater among females than males in the <75 age group.

Analysis of the potential factors that could explain this divergence in survival between males and females, showed that the difference in surgical resection rate between males and females is the most likely explanation for this. Previously, we have shown that lung cancer surgical resection rates have increased between 1998 and 2008 and that the one-year increment in surgical resection rate was slightly higher among females than males.[11] Restricting this analysis to the <75 age group for this time period confirmed that between the start and end of the time period under study here, females became more likely to undergo surgery than males (data not shown), which may contribute to the divergence in survival.

## 5. References

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## 6. Appendix

Table 1: Classification of surgical procedures according to Office of Population, Census and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures, fourth revision codes (OPCS-4).

| <b>Surgical Procedure</b>                   |  | <b>Codes</b> |
|---|--|--------------|
| <b>Pneumonectomy</b>                        | Total pneumonectomy                              | E541         |
| <b>Lobectomy</b>                            | Bilobectomy of lung,                             | E542         |
|   | Lobectomy of lung                                | E543         |
| <b>Wedge resection</b>                      | Excision of segment of lung,                     | E544         |
|   | Partial lobectomy of lung NEC                    | E545         |
| <b>Sleeve resection</b>                     | Sleeve resection of bronchus and anastomosis HFQ | E461         |
| <b>Other</b>                                | Open excision of lesion of trachea,              | E391         |
|   | Other specified partial excision of trachea,     | E398         |
|   | Unspecified partial excision of trachea,         | E399         |
|   | Excision of carina,                              | E441         |
|   | Other specified excision of lung,                | E548         |
|   | Unspecified excision of lung,                    | E549         |
|   | Open excision of lesion of lung,                 | E552         |
|   | Unspecified open extirpation of lesion of lung,  | E559         |
|   | Excision of lesion of chest wall,                | T013         |
| Insertion of prosthesis into chest wall NEC | T023   |              |

Table 2: Codes for histology in NCDR (using the third edition of the international classification of diseases for oncology (ICD-0-3)).

| <b>Description</b>   | <b>Code</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Adenocarcinoma</b>  |             |
| Adenocarcinoma NOS   | 8140        |
| Scirrhus adenocarcinoma                                      | 8141        |
| Superficial spreading adenocarcinoma                         | 8143        |
| Adenocarcinoma, interstitial type                            | 8144        |
| Carcinoma, diffuse type                                      | 8145        |
| Monomorphic adenoma  | 8146        |
| Cholangiocarcinoma   | 8160        |
| Adenoid cystic carcinoma                                     | 8200        |
| Cribiform carcinoma  | 8201        |
| Tubular adenocarcinoma                                       | 8211        |
| Solid carcinoma NOS  | 8230        |
| Carcinoid tumour NOS (except of appendix M8240/1)            | 8240        |
| Carcinoid tumour, argentaffin, malignant                     | 8241        |
| Goblet cell carcinoid  | 8243        |
| Composite carcinoid  | 8244        |
| Tubular carcinoid  | 8245        |
| Neuroendocrine carcinoma                                     | 8246        |
| Atypical carcinoid tumour                                    | 8249        |
| Bronchiolo-alveolar adenocarcinoma                           | 8250        |
| Alveolar adenocarcinoma                                      | 8251        |
| Bronchio-alveolar carcinoma, non-mucinous                    | 8252        |
| Bronchio-alveolar carcinoma, mucinous                        | 8253        |
| Bronchio-alveolar carcinoma, mixed mucinous and non-mucinous | 8254        |
| Adenocarcinoma with mixed sub-types                          | 8255        |
| Papillary adenocarcinoma NOS                                 | 8260        |
| Adenocarcinoma in tubulovillous adenoma                      | 8263        |
| Oxyphilic adenocarcinoma                                     | 8290        |
| Clear cell adenocarcinoma NOS                                | 8310        |
| Granular cell carcinoma                                      | 8320        |
| Mixed cell adenocarcinoma                                    | 8323        |
| Adrenal cortical carcinoma                                   | 8370        |
| Mucoepidermoid carcinoma                                     | 8430        |
| Cystadenocarcinoma NOS                                       | 8440        |
| Mucinous cystadenocarcinoma NOS                              | 8470        |
| Mucinous adenocarcinoma                                      | 8480        |
| Mucin-producing adenocarcinoma                               | 8481        |
| Signet ring cell carcinoma                                   | 8490        |
| Lobular carcinoma NOS  | 8520        |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Acinar cell carcinoma                                 | 8550 |
| Adenosquamous carcinoma                               | 8560 |
| Epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma                    | 8562 |
| Adenocarcinoma with squamous metaplasia               | 8570 |
| Adenocarcinoma with spindle cell metaplasia           | 8572 |
| Adenocarcinoma with neuroendocrine differentiation    | 8574 |
| Metaplastic carcinoma NOS                             | 8575 |
| <b>Large cell</b>                                     |      |
| Large cell carcinoma NOS                              | 8012 |
| Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma                   | 8013 |
| <b>Non-small cell</b>                                 |      |
| Non-small cell carcinoma                              | 8046 |
| <b>Squamous cell carcinoma</b>                        |      |
| Papillary carcinoma NOS                               | 8050 |
| Papillary squamous cell carcinoma                     | 8052 |
| Squamous cell carcinoma NOS                           | 8070 |
| Squamous cell carcinoma, keratinising NOS             | 8071 |
| Squamous cell carcinoma, large cell, non-keratinising | 8072 |
| Squamous cell carcinoma, small cell, non-keratinising | 8073 |
| Squamous cell carcinoma, spindle cell                 | 8074 |
| Adenoid squamous cell carcinoma                       | 8075 |
| Squamous cell carcinoma, microinvasive                | 8076 |
| <b>Small cell carcinoma</b>                           |      |
| Small cell carcinoma NOS                              | 8041 |
| Oat cell carcinoma                                    | 8042 |
| Small cell carcinoma, fusiform cell                   | 8043 |
| Small cell carcinoma, intermediate cell               | 8044 |
| Small cell-large cell carcinoma                       | 8045 |
| <b>Other specified</b>                                |      |
| Lymphoepithelial carcinoma                            | 8082 |
| Basaloid squamous cell carcinoma                      | 8083 |
| Basaloid carcinoma                                    | 8123 |
| Malignant melanoma NOS                                | 8720 |
| Sarcoma NOS   | 8800 |
| Spindle cell sarcoma                                  | 8801 |
| Giant cell sarcoma (except of bone M9250/3)           | 8802 |
| Small cell sarcoma                                    | 8803 |
| Epithelioid sarcoma                                   | 8804 |
| Fibrosarcoma NOS                                      | 8810 |
| Fibromyxosarcoma                                      | 8811 |
| Solitary fibrous tumour, malignant                    | 8815 |
| Fibrous histiocytoma, malignant                       | 8830 |
| Liposarcoma NOS                                       | 8850 |
| Leiomyosarcoma NOS                                    | 8890 |
| Angiomyosarcoma                                       | 8894 |
| Rhabdomyosarcoma NOS                                  | 8900 |
| Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma                          | 8901 |
| Adenosarcoma  | 8933 |



|  |      |
|--|------|
| Mixed tumour, malignant NOS                  | 8940 |
| Rhabdoid sarcoma                             | 8963 |
| Pulmonary blastoma                           | 8972 |
| Carcinosarcoma NOS                           | 8980 |
| Synovial sarcoma NOS                         | 9040 |
| Teratoma, malignant NOS                      | 9080 |
| Choriocarcinoma NOS                          | 9100 |
| Haemangiosarcoma                             | 9120 |
| Haemangioendothelioma, malignant             | 9130 |
| Epithelioid haemangioendothelioma, malignant | 9133 |
| Lymphangiosarcoma                            | 9170 |
| Osteosarcoma NOS                             | 9180 |
| Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma                   | 9240 |
| Peripheral neuroectodermal tumour            | 9364 |
| Primitive neuroectodermal tumour             | 9473 |
| Neurofibroma                                 | 9540 |
| <b>Unspecified</b>                           |      |
| Neoplasm, malignant                          | 8000 |
| Tumour cells, malignant                      | 8001 |
| Malignant tumour, small cell type            | 8002 |
| Malignant tumour, giant cell type            | 8003 |
| Malignant tumour, fusiform cell type         | 8004 |
| Carcinoma NOS                                | 8010 |
| Epithelioma, malignant                       | 8011 |
| Carcinoma, undifferentiated NOS              | 8020 |
| Carcinoma, anaplastic type NOS               | 8021 |
| Pleomorphic carcinoma                        | 8022 |
| Giant cell and spindle cell carcinoma        | 8030 |
| Giant cell carcinoma                         | 8031 |
| Spindle cell carcinoma                       | 8032 |
| Pseudosarcomatous carcinoma                  | 8033 |
| Polygonal cell carcinoma                     | 8034 |
| Tumorlet                                     | 8040 |
| Missing                                      |      |

## **FIND OUT MORE:**

[Thames Cancer Registry](#) is the lead cancer registry for lung cancer and mesothelioma.

The NCIN is a UK-wide initiative, working closely with cancer services in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the NCRI, to drive improvements in standards of cancer care and clinical outcomes by improving and using the information it collects for analysis, publication and research. In England, the NCIN is part of the National Cancer Programme.