



Trends in survival for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in England: 2001-2010.

National Cancer Intelligence Network Data Briefing

NCIN has produced a detailed report covering incidence, mortality and survival; the focus of this briefing is survival.

Detailed report: <http://www.ncin.org.uk/view?rid=2818>

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is most common in children, with a higher incidence in males than females. Over the period 2001-2010 the age-standardised incidence has not changed whilst there has been a small decline in the mortality rate in both sexes.

Relative survival reflects the excess mortality among cancer patients, over and above the background mortality in the country or region where they live. The analyses shown in this briefing use relative survival estimated using the maximum likelihood method for individual records, developed by Estève et al (1) using the strel command in Stata version 13.

Outcomes

- Between 2000-03 and 2008-10 improvements in survival were apparent in patients aged 0-14 and 15-24, with an increase in relative survival at five years amongst males and females combined from 83% to 92%, and 51% to 68% respectively.
- The outcome from ALL is strongly influenced by the age at diagnosis, with poorer survival in older teenagers and adults.

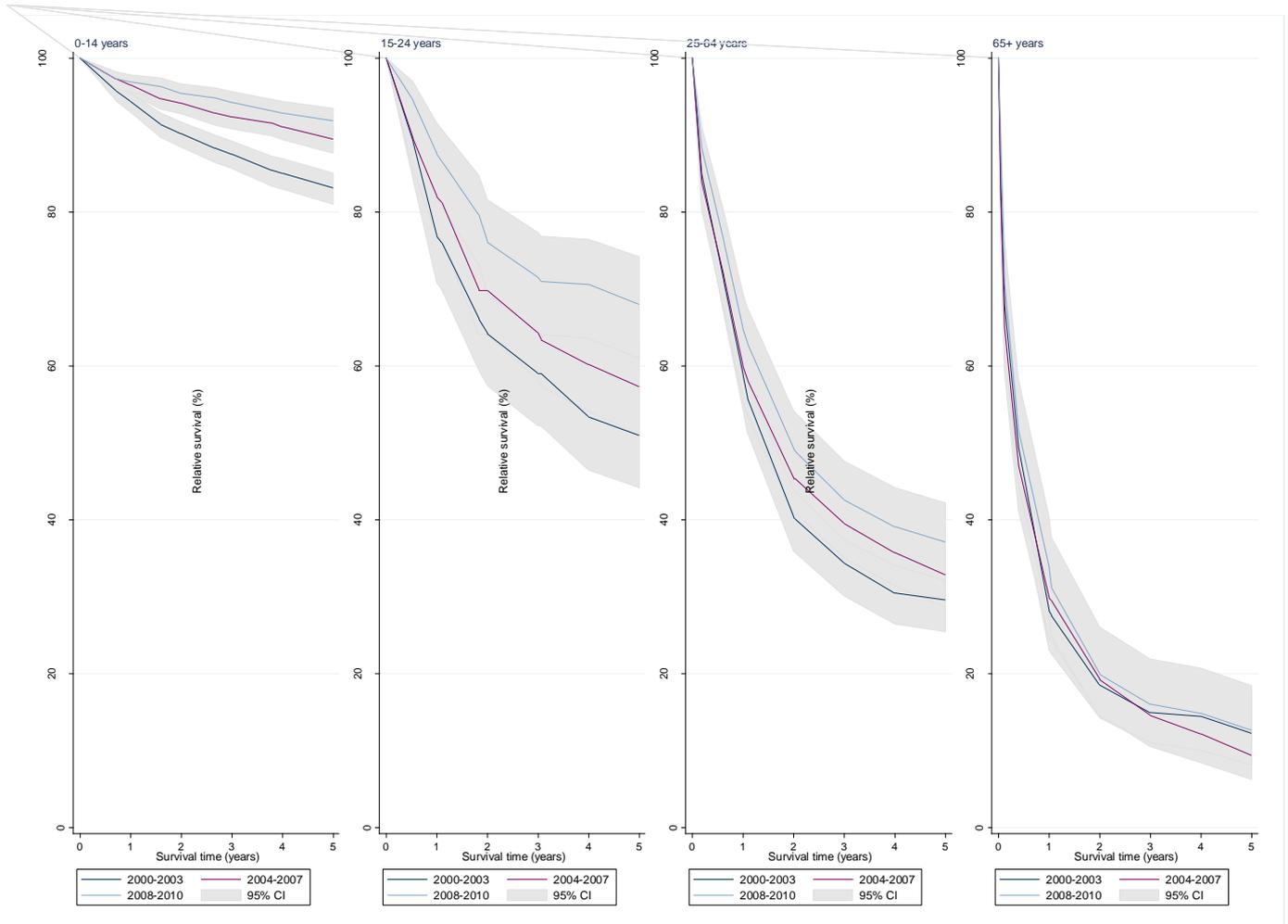
Treatment

- Treatment for ALL takes 2-3 years, and involves several drugs and extended stays in hospital. There were several changes in treatment protocols for children during the period 2001-2010.
- Chemotherapy for the age group 15-24 changed over this time; patients aged 15-18 began to be treated with children's management protocols in 2003 in the hope that this would improve survival. Evidence accumulated that this was an improvement in treatment, and the children's protocol was introduced for young adults age 19-24 from 2007.

Key messages

- Between 2001-2010 the age standardised incidence rate of ALL has not changed whilst there has been a small decline in the mortality rate.
- 5 year survival improved in patients aged 0-14 and 15-24 from 83% to 92% and 51% to 68% respectively.

Trends in relative survival rates for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia diagnosed in persons in the periods 2000-2003, 2004-2007 and 2008-2010 followed up to end of 2010, by age group in England.



1) Esteve J, Benhamou E, Croasdale M, Raymond L. 'Relative survival and the estimation of net survival: elements for further discussion', Stat Med, 9, 529-538 (1990).

FIND OUT MORE:

The PHE Knowledge and Intelligence Team Northern and Yorkshire is the lead KIT for haematological cancers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Other useful resources within the NCIN partnership:

What cancer statistics are available and where can I find them?

<http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/reports/>

Public Health England's National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) is a UK-wide initiative, working to drive improvements in cancer awareness, prevention, diagnosis and clinical outcomes by improving and using the information collected about cancer patients for analysis,