

DAY 2 PARALLEL SESSION AND PROFFERED PAPER ABSTRACTS

Morning session 1: Survivorship

11:35 - CANCER SURVIVORSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Jacob Maddams, Thames Cancer Registry, King's College London; Martin Utley, Clinical Operational Research Unit, University College London; Henrik Møller, Thames Cancer Registry, King's College London

Objectives

In the UK there are approximately two million cancer survivors (3.2% of the entire population), composed of groups of people in different phases of survivorship and with different health service needs. The aim of this study was to quantify the level of acute health service utilisation by cancer survivors in the UK, according to tumour type, age, sex, time since diagnosis, and time until death.

Methods

Linked national cancer registry and Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data were analysed. These covered all cancer-related admissions to NHS hospitals in England occurring in 2006 among people diagnosed with cancer in the period 1990-2006. The intensity of cancer-related acute health service utilisation was categorised as 'none', 'low' (up to 10% of time), or 'high' (>10% of time), among groups defined by time since diagnosis and time until death. Results were extrapolated from the population of England in 2006 (51 million) to that of the UK in 2008 (61 million).

Results

61,000 of the two million cancer survivors (3%) were in the 'high' utilisation category; 240,000 (12%) were in the 'low' category; 1,702,000 (85%) had no cancer-related hospital admissions. 309,000 cancer survivors (15%) were within one year from diagnosis and/or death, and it was these groups that had the highest levels of hospital utilisation. 1,568,000 cancer survivors (78%) were more than one year from both diagnosis and death, and had no cancer related hospital admissions.

Conclusions

A considerable proportion of cancer survivors in the UK have a high level of hospital utilisation soon after diagnosis or before death, but the large majority are not recently diagnosed nor near the end of their life, and do not utilise acute health services for cancer-related care.