4.6 About the Munich Cancer Registry, its latest annual report and a list of figures and tables

This chapter describes the work of the Munich Cancer Registry (MCR) and aims to help English speaking colleagues who are engaged in cancer control to interpret results and compare data.

The second annual report of the MCR presents results of cancer registration in Munich City and the surrounding counties. As a main topic, the present annual report provides statistical analyses of gynaecological cancers, particularly ovary, tube, corpus uteri, cervix uteri, vulva and vagina. Additionally, for the most frequent cancer diagnoses the 15-year-survival rates are presented. Nearly 5,000 general practitioners, 45 hospitals with about 250 departments and 156 communities will receive this issue. This report points out the importance and the usefulness of population-based clinical data for physicians.

The MCR is part of the comprehensive Munich Cancer Center and started registering patients in 1978. For the first years a few departments of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University and the Technical University Munich collaborated. The number of collaborating members grew continuously. The world age-standardized incidence rate in 1996 was estimated at 242/100,000 (209 for females) for Munich.

Bavaria has a total population of 12 million, the Federal Republic of Germany has 82 million people. The MCR collects cancer data of about 2.3 million people, which equals to 2.8% of the German population. The Bavarian Cancer Registration Law came into force at the beginning of 1998 allowing the MCR to legally process all death certificates of the catchment area. For 1998 and 1999 informations of death certificates were compared with registry data provided by clinical institutions on the individual level. Tab. 7a-b illustrate the observed cancer related mortality for the Munich area. A first estimation of the DCO-rate was about 17% in 1998. The reduction of the current DCO-rate can be expected as a result of follow-back-actions in the near future.

Each collaborating hospital receives a survey of all their patients treated irrespective of their home address. Therefore the MCR also registers patients from outside the registration area (about 25%). Since the beginning in 1994 the reports of 12 pathological institutions have been the basis for checking completeness of registration. In this way correctness of incidence rates may be roughly judged (tab. 20).

For data collection 26 cancer-specific forms have been developed. Often, copies of medical reports are sent to the registry as well. Cooperating hospitals additionally report on local and regional progressions and the occurrence of metastases. In this way the course of malignant disease is described.

The MCR produces periodical reports for all cooperating hospitals to keep them informed about their clinical registries. The most frequent cancer diagnoses of all patients in the region are analysed and the larger hospitals are anonymously compared by their clinical results.

fig./tab. (Abb./Tab.) page

Cancer Incidence, Mortality, Survival and Lifestyle Survey Statistics Provided by the MCR

Cervix uteri

Vulva and Vagina

Appendix