

#### **4.6 Background to the Munich Cancer Registry, its latest annual report, and an index of figures and tables**

The fourth annual report of the Munich Cancer Registry (MCR) again contains a short chapter for English speaking colleagues, who are engaged in cancer prevention and control, to help you to interpret the results and to compare data.

This annual report presents the results of cancer registration in the city of Munich and the surrounding areas for the years 2001/2002. Detailed statistical analyses of larynx, lung and kidney cancer are the special focus of this current issue. Chapters 2.5 and 2.6 reflect recent developments in the fields of breast cancer screening and disease management programs for breast cancer patients in Germany. Nearly 7,600 general practitioners, 100 hospitals with about 500 departments and 437 communities will receive this issue. This report highlights the importance and the usefulness of population-based clinical data for physicians and the public.

The MCR is part of the comprehensive Munich Cancer Centre and started registering patients in 1978. The number of collaborating members has grown continuously (see Chapter 4.3). These efforts have led to a world age-standardised incidence rate estimated to be 322/100,000 for males (248 for females) for Munich in 2000.

Bavaria has a total population of 12.3 million; the Federal Republic of Germany has 82 million people. The MCR collected cancer data from about 2.3 million people up to the end of 2001, which equals 2.8% of the German population. In 2002, the catchment area was enlarged to 3.7 million people (4.5%). The Bavarian Cancer Registration Law came into force at the beginning of 1998, allowing the MCR to legally process all death certificates from the catchment area. Tables 8a and 8b illustrate the observed cancer related mortality for the Munich area. The DCO-rate decreased to about 12% in 2000. Cooperation with the residents' registration offices has led to a follow-up rate of 94% for patients registered since 1978.

Each collaborating hospital receives a survey for all of their treated patients, irrespective of their home address. Therefore the MCR also registers patients from outside the registration area. In 1994, the reports of 13 pathological institutions were the basis for checking completeness of registration, now 17 institutions co-operate. In this way, the incidence rates and the co-operation of the departments can be monitored continuously.

To support data collection, there are 26 different cancer-specific forms. Often, copies of medical reports are sent to the registry as well. Co-operating hospitals additionally report on local and regional progressions and the occurrence of metastases. In this way, the course of malignant disease is available and the cause of death can partly be validated by death certificate.

The MCR produces periodical reports for all co-operating hospitals to keep them informed of their clinical results. In addition, information can be found on the MCR website. All co-operating partners have internet access through a secure password. Analyses of the most common cancers in the region are presented and the larger hospitals can anonymously compare their clinical results.

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