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ESTIMATES OF BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE AND MORTALITY IN ITALY

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Objective

To present estimates and projections of the female breast cancer incidence, prevalence and mortality for Italy and all Italian regions in the period 1970-2015.

Materials and Methods

The estimates were obtained by applying the MIAMOD method, a statistical back-calculation approach to derive incidence and prevalence figures from mortality and relative survival data. Data from the Italian cancer registries were modelled to obtain estimates of breast cancer survival.

Results

Breast cancer mortality has been increasing till the late 1980s then stabilized for a decade, and finally decreased. Mortality rates are higher in the northern regions compared to central and southern. Crude Incidence rate and prevalence proportion increased for the whole period. In southern regions the incidence is lower than in the northern regions, however the incidence is increasing more rapidly in the south of Italy.

Conclusions

The geographical variation in female breast cancer burden can be explained by the unequal distribution of screening. The decreased mortality in the last decade may be related to both improved treatment and early detection diffusion.