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TIME TRENDS OF CERVICAL CANCER INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY IN ITALY

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Introduction

Incidence and mortality of cervix uteri cancer (CC) are necessary for surveillance and for monitoring screening effectiveness. For uterus cancers sub-site information of official mortality is largely incomplete in Italy as in many European countries (NOS proportion >60%).

Objectives

To estimate cervical cancer mortality and incidence in Italy by geographical area in the period 1980-2012.

Materials and Methods

Official cause specific mortality and population data. Italian population-based cancer registries (CR) participating the EUROCARE-4 study provided survival data. Mortality rates estimated with Excess Mortality method¹. Expected CC incidence estimates and projections obtained with the MIAMOD method^{2,3}.

Results

Sharp decline of CC in Italy: age standardised (AS) incidence rates from 14 per 100,000 in 1980 to 6.2 in 2002 and 4.2 in 2012. AS mortality from 7 per 100,00 in 1980 reduced to 1.6 in 2012. The reduction is concentrated in older ages (55 years +) and ages 45-54 present the higher incidence rates in 2012 (10.1 per 100,000). Incidence is quite homogeneous by geographical area (range 3.6-4.5). Mortality in Southern Italy is slightly higher, due to lower survival.

Discussion and Conclusions

These changes in CC epidemiology largely reflect the diffusion of organised screening programs in Italy. HPV prevalence trends are also relevant, especially in younger ages. Continuous monitoring of epidemiological indicators is crucial to evaluate cancer control activities.

References

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