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THE DATABASE OF THE ITALIAN NETWORK OF CANCER REGISTRIES - AIRTUM

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Introduction

Since 2005 the Italian Network of Cancer Registries (AIRTUM) has a centralized database.

Objectives

Describe the database of AIRTUM and its uses

Materials and Methods

AIRTUM database includes three archives, one for incident cases, one for cancer deaths (based on the National Institute of Statistics or on Local Mortality Registries) and a third one for resident population. All archives are anonymous and each cancer case is identified by a code. The description of the archives' format is available at <http://www.registri-tumori.it/cms/?q=numeri>. As regards incidence the database includes the main relevant information for all cancers gathered by each registry, invasive and not invasive. Incident cases are coded according to ICDO-3 and also to other classification if adopted by the registry. Quality checks are carried out before and after data are sent to the database. The data base is update as regards both single cases (follow-up, multiple primary) and new data. The archive is managed by means on Access and analysed by means of Seer*Stat (<http://seer.cancer.gov/seerstat/>). Currently the AIRTUM database collects more than 1,700,000 incident cases and about 800,000 cancer deaths.

Results

The availability of a unique, centralized database has simplified the production of common AIRTUM scientific reports. Every year AIRTUM publishes its own data (2009 trends, 2008 childhood cancer, 2007 survival, 2006 incidence, mortality estimates, <http://www.registri-tumori.it/cms/?q=node/34#>). Moreover other data are published only on the Web (e.g. 2009 update on 2003-2005 incidence) and simple analyses based on the AIRTUM database are published bimonthly on a scientific journal (<http://www.registri-tumori.it/cms/?q=numeri>). The database is also used to flow the database available in the AIRTUM web site (www.registri-tumori.it) and to provide data for collaborative studies.

Conclusions

The AIRTUM database represents a very useful tool for checking, comparing, analysing, publishing and publicizing data on cancer in Italy. Thanks to AIRTUM collection of data, Italian Cancer Registries are improving quality and quickness in data processing and dissemination.