
Downloaded from: http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/2121471/

DOI:

Usage Guidelines:

Please refer to usage guidelines at http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/policies.html or alternatively contact researchonline@lshtm.ac.uk.

Available under license: Copyright the author(s)
### Trends in colorectal cancer survival – a study among Maltese patients diagnosed in 1995 to 2009

D. Gauci\textsuperscript{a}, L. Woods\textsuperscript{b}

\textsuperscript{a}Directorate for Health Information and Research, Malta  
\textsuperscript{b}London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

#### Aim

- Assess trends of colorectal cancer survival in Malta over a 15 year period by the demographic features of the population

#### Population

- Maltese residents diagnosed with colorectal cancer from 1995 to 2009 and followed up to end 2010
- 2463 participants included in the study (97%)

#### Method

- Cohort method for five year relative survival using national cancer registry data and annual population life tables.
- Generalized linear models with a poisson distribution and link function were used to model the collapsed relative survival data\textsuperscript{2}.
- Excess mortality risk ratios calculated as a function of follow up time, year of diagnosis, age at diagnosis, region of residence and gender.

#### Results

- Five year relative survival for all patients is 53.6\% (95\% CI 51.1 – 56.1).
- Risk ratios show a significant reduction of 17\% in risk of mortality for patients diagnosed in 2005 – 2009 compared to those in 1995 – 1999 (p=0.024, 95\% CI 0.71 – 0.98).

#### Key Findings


- There are no differences by gender and region of residence.

- Age at diagnosis and follow up time are significantly associated with excess risk of mortality.

#### Conclusions

- While improvements have been made in survival over the past 15 years, a gap in survival for older and younger patients remains.
- Improving the knowledge of this target group to increase screening participation will help early diagnosis

#### References