

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH HEAD AND NECK SOCIETY

Title: Overview of the current epidemiology of head and neck cancers in Ireland

Body: Background

Head and neck cancers (ICD10 C00-C14, C30-C32) accounted for 3.3% of all invasive cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) in Ireland in 2020-2022. They were the 5th most common cancer in men and 15th most common cancer in women.

Methods

The National Cancer Registry collects data on all new primary cancers diagnosed in Ireland. Age-standardised incidence rates (ASR) were calculated using the 2013 European standard population. Age-standardised 5-year net survival was calculated using Pohar-Perme method.

Results

The annual average ASR of head and neck cancers 2020-2022 was 29.1/100,000 in men and 9.1/100,000 in women.

The ASRs for both men and women are increasing significantly (annual percentage change of 1.1% per year 2001-2022 and 1.3% per year 1994-2022 respectively).

5-year net survival has improved from 51% in 1994-1998 to 56% in 2014-2018 for men, and from 49% in 1994-1998 to 58% in 2014-2018 for women. Survival varies by age group with younger ages tending to have better survival and larger increases in survival over time.

Age-standardised mortality rates in both sexes show a significant decreasing trend over time.

Conclusion

Head and neck cancers are a diverse group of cancers, showing variation in incidence, survival and mortality by site, sex, and age group.

Authors: Aline Brennan (1), Joe McDevitt (1), Theresa Redaniel (1), Deirdre Murray (1).

Affiliations: 1. National Cancer Registry Ireland