Liver Cancer in China

Liver cancer is a common cancer and a leading cause of cancer deaths in China. Real-time surveillance information was created by analyzing liver cancer incidence and mortality in China in 2009 reported by the National Central Cancer Registry. Liver cancer incidence and cases of death were retrieved from the national database using the ICD-10 topography code "C22". Crude incidence and mortality were calculated and stratified by sex, age, and location (urban/rural). China's population in 1982 and Segi (world) population structures were used for age-standardized rates. In cancer registration areas in 2009, the crude incidence of liver cancer was 28.71/100,000, making it the fourth most common cancer in China, third most common in males, and fifth most common in females. The crude mortality of liver cancer was 26.04/100,000, making it the second leading cause of cancer death in China and urban areas and the third leading cause in rural areas. Incidence and mortality were higher in males than in females and were higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The age-specific incidence and mortality were relatively low among age groups under 30 years but dramatically increased and peaked in the 80-84 years old group. These findings confirm that liver cancer is a common and fatal cancer in China. Primary and secondary prevention such as health education, hepatitis B virus vaccination, and early detection should be carried out both in males and females, in urban and rural areas.[[1](#_ENREF_1)]

From 1988 to 2005, a total of 97 462 liver cancer patients, among whom 75% were men, were diagnosed in the covered areas. The crude and age-standardized incidence rates in the combined population were 24.27/100 000 and 18.55/100 000, respectively. The age-standardized incidence rate was 28.15/100 000 for men and 9.31/100 000 for women. A decreasing trend was observed in the age-standardized incidence rate, with an annual percent change of -1.44% (P<0.05). Analysis on the basis of geographic location showed that the incidence rate was higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The crude and age-standardized incidence rates were 35.78/100 000 and 34.34/100 000 for rural areas and 21.64/100 000 and 15.72/100 000 for urban areas, respectively. During the past 18 years, the overall incidence rate of PLC had been decreasing gradually in 11 covered areas in China. Further studies are required to identify the risk factors influencing the incidence trend of liver cancer.[[2](#_ENREF_2)]

1. Chen, W.Q., R.S. Zheng, and S.W. Zhang, *Liver cancer incidence and mortality in China, 2009.* Chinese journal of cancer, 2013. **32**(4): p. 162-9.

2. Gao, J., L. Xie, W.Q. Chen, S.W. Zhang, Q.J. Wu, Y. Yang, W.S. Yang, Y.T. Tan, and Y.B. Xiang, *Rural-urban, sex variations, and time trend of primary liver cancer incidence in China, 1988-2005.* European journal of cancer prevention : the official journal of the European Cancer Prevention Organisation, 2013. **22**(5): p. 448-54.