

Cancer Statistics Digest

Worldwide Burden of Cancer Incidence in 2002 Extrapolated from Cancer Incidence in Five Continents Vol. IX

In order to compare the burden of cancer incidence worldwide, we abstracted the crude incidence rate in 2002 from *Cancer Incidence in Five Continents Vol. IX* (CI5 IX). The CI5 databases provide access to detailed information on the incidence of cancer recorded by cancer registries (regional and national) worldwide. We used crude incidence rate by cancer site in Japan, India, the USA, Brazil, the UK, Poland, and Australia from the CI5 plus database which contains annual incidence for selected cancer registries published in CI5 for the longest possible period. Three registries (Miyagi, Osaka and Yamagata), two registries (Chennai and Mumbai), nine registries (SEER), one registry (Goiania), five registries (Birmingham and West Midlands region, Merseyside and Cheshire, North Western, Oxford, and Yorkshire), two registries (Cracow and Warsaw cities) and five registries (New South Wales, South, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western) represent the respective cancer incidence in Japan, India, the USA, Brazil, the UK (England), Poland, and Australia. We selected five cancer sites with the highest incidence rate in each country and compared the difference between the sites and the distribution of cancer burden.

Figure 1 shows the burden of cancer incidence ranking highest for males; Fig. 2 shows these data for females.

For males, in most of the countries the burden of incidence at five major primary sites accounts for >50% of the total cancer, except for India and Poland (36.9 and 49.1%, respectively). The burden of cancer incidence showed great variety; however, the USA was similar to the UK here. Prostate cancer was the most common form of cancer in the USA, Brazil, the UK and Australia. In Poland, prostate cancer was placed second, with lung cancer first. In contrast, the most common cancer in Japan was stomach cancer, and cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx was the most common in India. Lung cancer was important in most countries. It was the second most frequent cancer in Japan, the USA, the UK and Australia, and the third most frequent cancer in Brazil. Colon cancer was also common; it was the third most common cancer in Japan, the USA and Poland, and the fourth most common cancer in India, the UK and Australia. Bladder cancer was seen in the four countries as well. Additional primary cancer sites in each country were liver in Japan, oesophagus in India and melanoma of the skin in Australia.

For females, breast cancer was the most frequent cancer in each country to varying degrees (14.2% in Japan, to 27.2% in the USA). As the second most common site, cervix uteri was reported for India and Brazil, and lung for the USA, the UK and Poland. Colon cancer ranked high in five countries: Japan, the USA, the UK, Poland, and Australia. Cancer of the corpus uteri ranked high

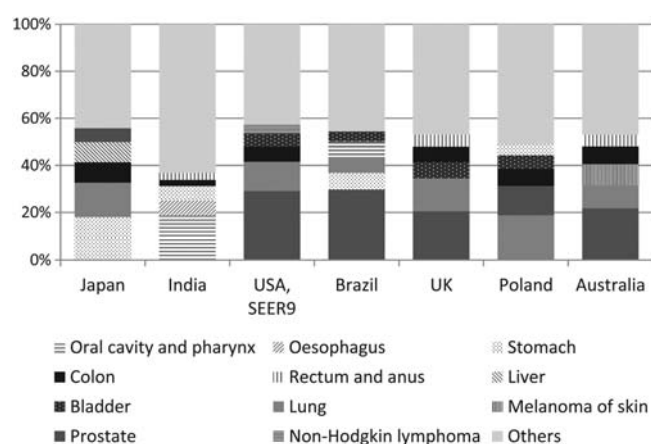


Figure 1. Burden of cancer incidence (males).

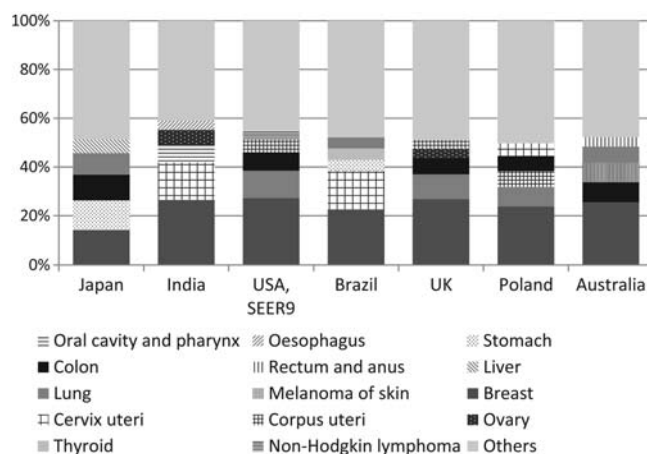


Figure 2. Burden of cancer incidence (females).

Note: Data were downloaded from IARC CANCER Mondial Statistical Information System (<http://www-dep.iarc.fr/>). Responsibility for this presentation and interpretation lies with the authors of this article.

in the USA, the UK and Poland. The most characteristic primary cancer sites were liver in Japan, thyroid in Brazil and melanoma of the skin in Australia. The USA scored similarly to the UK for females as well as for males.

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