

National Cancer Registry, Malta

Report on

ONE-YEAR SURVIVAL OF 1991 CANCER PATIENTS

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Report on the one-year survival of Maltese residents diagnosed as having cancer during 1991

A joint analysis of the National Cancer Register and the National Mortality Register was carried out to determine how many of the Maltese residents diagnosed as having cancer in 1991 were still alive one year from the incidence date, i.e. the date when the diagnosis of cancer was made. Both the Cancer and the Mortality Registers are kept at the Health Information Systems Unit of the Department of Health.

Seventeen different cancer sites / types were evaluated, as follows:

Cancer site/type	ICD-9 code	Total no. of cases diagnosed in 1991
Nasopharynx	147	12
Stomach	151	62
Colon/ Large Bowel	153	62
Rectum/ RSJ/Anus	154	44
Pancreas	157	31
Larynx	161	12
Lung/ Bronchus	162	112
Female Breast	174	147
Corpus Uteri	179 + 182	35
Cervix Uteri	180	14
Ovary	183	33
Prostate	185	38
Urinary Bladder	188	65
Lymphomas	201 - 202	30
*Hodgkin's Disease	201	10
*Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	202	20
Leukaemias	204 - 205	31
*ALL	2040	3
*AML	2050	6
*CLL	2041	16
*CML	2051	6

These particular cancer sites were chosen either because they are among the commonest as regards incidence or because they generate particular interest as with the leukaemias and lymphomas.

RESULTS:

Table 1: **NASOPHARYNX**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	9	9	100
Females	3	3	100
Total	12	12	100

Table 2: **STOMACH**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	35	9	26
Females	27	13	48
Total	62	22	36

Table 3: **COLON / LARGE BOWEL**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	26	18	69
Females	36	29	81
Total	62	47	76

Table 4: **RECTUM / RECTO-SIGMOID JUNCTION / ANUS**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	27	19	70
Females	17	13	77
Total	44*	32	73

* This total included : 6 cases of cancer in the Recto-Sigmoid junction
35 cases of cancer in the Rectum
2 cases of cancer in the Ano-Rectal region

Table 5: **PANCREAS**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	19	3	16
Females	12	1	8
Total	31	4	13

Table 6: **LARYNX**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	12	10	83
Females	0*	0*	0*
Total	12	10	83

* There were no female cases of Laryngeal cancer diagnosed in 1991

Table 7: **LUNG / BRONCHUS**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	96	28	29
Females	16	3	19
Total	112	31	28

Table 8: **FEMALE BREAST ***

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Total *	147	139	95

* There were no cases of Male breast cancer diagnosed in 1991 (ICD-9: 175)

Table 9: **CORPUS UTERI** (all female)

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Total	35	31	87

Table 10: **CERVIX UTERI** (all female)

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Total	14	12	86

Table 11: **OVARY** (all female)

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Total	33	21	64

Table 12: **PROSTATE** (all male)

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Total	38	29	76

Table 13: **URINARY BLADDER**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	49	40	82
Females	16	11	69
Total	65	51	79

Table 14: **LYMPHOMAS** (all types)

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Total	30	22	73

Table 15: **NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	12	8	67
Females	8	5	62
Total	20	13	65

Table 16: **HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA**

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	7	6	86
Females	3	3	100
Total	10	9	90

Table 17: LEUKAEMIAS (all types)

	Total number of cases	Number of one-year survivors	% one-year survivors
Males	13	4	31
Females	18	9	50
Total	31	13	42

ACUTE LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA

There were 3 cases of ALL diagnosed in 1991 and 2 of these survived for more than 1 year after diagnosis.

ACUTE MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

There were 16 cases of AML diagnosed in 1991 and 5 cases survived for more than one year after diagnosis resulting in a 31 % one - year survival.

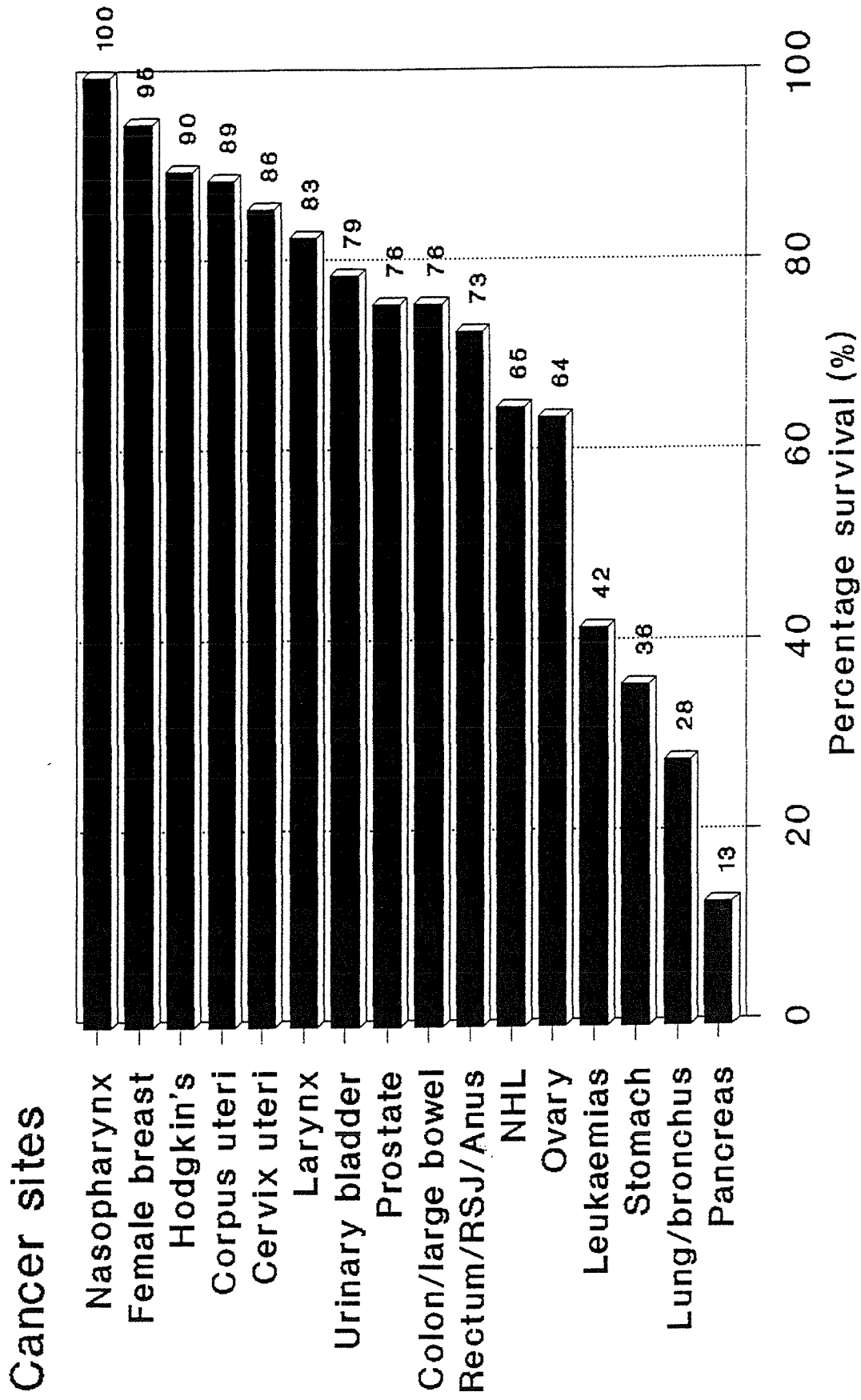
CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA

There were 6 cases of CLL diagnosed in 1991 and of these 3 cases survived for more than 1 year after diagnosis.

CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

There were 6 cases of CML diagnosed in 1991 and of these 3 cases survived for more than 1 year after diagnosis.

Figure 1: One-year survival for selected cancers
Percentage one-year survivors



Source: National Cancer Registry

Table 18 :

One - year survival rates from Malta Register for cases diagnosed in 1991 compared to figures quoted from Geneva Report of cases diagnosed between 1982-1986.

Cancer site	Percentage survival				
	Total one - year survival	Male one - year survival	Geneva report. Male one - year survival	Female one - year survival	Geneva report. Female one - year survival
Nasopharynx	100	100	na*	100	na*
Stomach	36	26	39	48	32
Colon / Large Bowel	76	69	64	81	58
Rectum / RSJ / Anus	73	71	69	77	72
Pancreas	13	16	11	8	11
Larynx	83	83	83	0	82
Lung / Bronchus	28	29	37	19	38
Female Breast	95	na	na	95	93
Corpus Uteri	89	na	na	89	87
Cervix Uteri	86	na	na	86	80
Ovary	64	na	na	64	60
Prostate	76	76	82	na	na
Urinary Bladder	79	81	74	68	72
Lymphomas	73				
- NHL	65	67	67	62	67
- Hodgkin's	90	86	88	100	85
Leukaemias (all types)	42	31	63	50	58

na : not applicable

na* : Percentage figures were not quoted in the Geneva report in this case because of a very small number of cases with this tumour site.

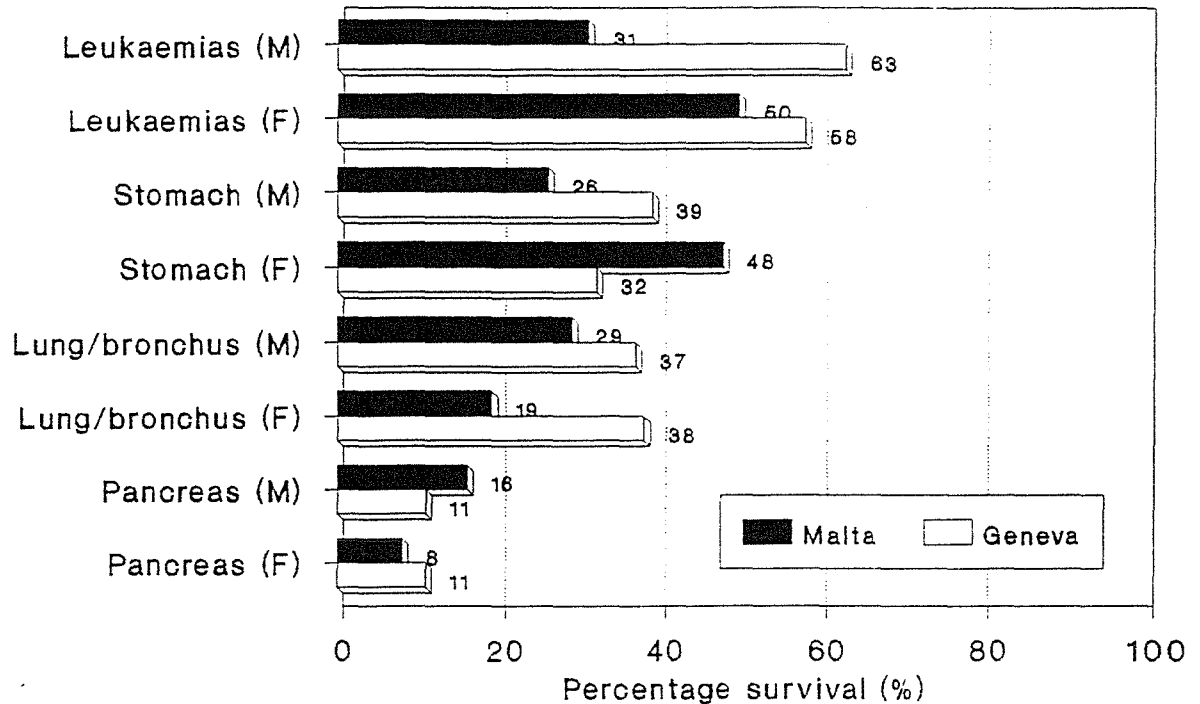
N.B. Leukaemias were not divided by haematological type because of the small numbers of cases involved which would make any calculated figure statistically unreliable.

The Geneva Report quoted in the above table is called : *Le cancer a Geneve - Incidence Mortalite Survie 1970 - 1990*. This report was published in June 1993.

Figure 2:

One-year survival for selected cancers Percentage survival (Malta vs Geneva)

Cancer sites



Source: National Cancer Registry

The above figure is a graphical representation of the 4 cancer sites / types with a one-year percentage survival of less than 50%, divided by sex and compared with the Geneva figures.

Published figures of one-year survival from cancer are very rare. This explains why our national figures were compared only with the figures of the report from Geneva which was the only recent and reliable published data bearing this information that could be found on the Maltese Islands.

TAQSIMA SISTEMI TA' INFORMAZZJONI
DWAR IS-SANNA
Sptar San Luqa
G'Mangia – Malta



HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS
UNIT
St. Luke's Hospital
G'Mangia – Malta

OurRef.

YourRef. 4 December 1993

Dr J.L. Grech,
Consultant Pathologist,
c/o Pathology Dept. St Luke's Hospital

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find a copy of the report **One-year survival of 1991 cancer patients** issued by the Cancer Registry at the Health Information Systems Unit.

This is the first time that survival data have been worked out from the information that has been accumulated in the cancer register. The year 1991 is the first year for which there is sufficient and comprehensive national data so that we can truly start working out such national figures. Similar and more detailed reports are planned to follow in the future. Any suggestions regarding the contents and any improvements that might be possible at this stage are more than welcome.

Comparison with other international data was limited to figures from a report issued from the Cancer Registry in Geneva, Switzerland. Published international data bearing information on one-year cancer survival is scarce and the above was the only comprehensive report which could be reliably quoted.

Hoping that you will find the enclosed information both helpful and interesting,

Yours faithfully,

mdalmas.

Dr Miriam Dalmas
Medical Officer in charge, Cancer Registry.
f/ Dr H Agius Muscat, Head - Director, Health Information.