

Prognosis of oral and pharyngeal cancers in Spain. A REDECAN study

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Background

Oral cavity and pharyngeal cancers (OCPC) are a heterogeneous group of malignancies, which affect different sites and whose prognosis varies. The aim of this study was to analyse the survival of patients diagnosed with OCPC in Spain.

Methods

Adult cases diagnosed with OCPC during 2002–2007 and 2008–2013, from 13 Spanish population-based cancer registries included in the REDECAN network, were selected and followed up to the end of 2015. 5-year age-adjusted net survival (5NS) using the Pohar-Perme method, and excess mortality rate ratios (EMRR) through flexible parametric relative survival models were estimated. Age (continuous), sex and period of diagnosis were included in the models as covariates.

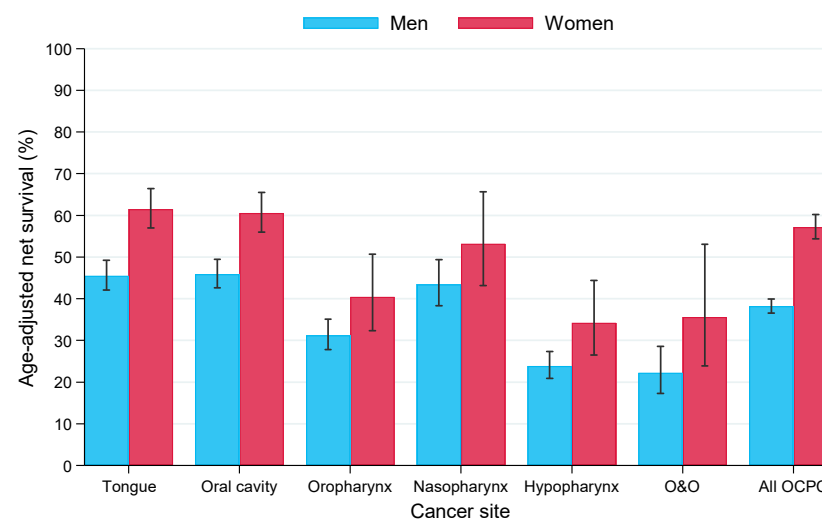
Fig 1. Cancer registries participating



Results

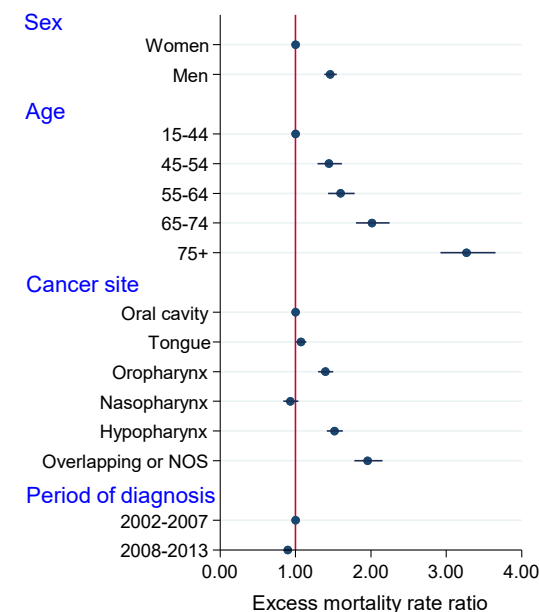
A total of 14,828 OCPC cases (78.4% men) were included.

Fig. 2 Five-year age-adjusted net survival in patients diagnosed with oral cavity and pharynx cancer by subsite in men and women in 2008–2013



O&O: other/overlapping sites.

Fig. 3 Adjusted excess mortality rate ratios in patients with oral cavity and pharyngeal cancers by sex, age, cancer site and period of diagnosis



Conclusions

This study confirms the heterogeneity of OCPC prognosis. Worse survival was found for hypopharyngeal and O&O sites, possibly largely related to later stage diagnosis. Improvement was observed for tongue and oral cavity cancers. Further research should include other prognostic factors, such as stage at diagnosis, treatments and comorbidities.