

## REGIONAL ESTIMATES OF STOMACH CANCER BURDEN IN ITALY

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**Aims and background:** Stomach cancer still remains one of the most frequent tumors in Italy and Europe. The aim of this paper is to present estimates for stomach cancer mortality, incidence and prevalence over the period 1970-2010 for the Italian regions and for Italy as a whole.

**Methods:** Estimated figures for incidence, prevalence and mortality were obtained by using the MIAMOD method. Starting from the knowledge of mortality in the period 1970-1999 and of relative survival in the period of diagnosis 1978-1994, we derived incidence and prevalence estimates and projections up to the year 2010 by means of a statistical back-calculation approach. Survival at the regional and national levels was modelled on the basis of published survival data from the Italian cancer registries.

**Results:** Incidence and mortality trends for both sexes decrease

by about 60% during the estimation period 1970-2010. Both indicators show a 2-fold male/female ratio all over the country, and a similar gender time trend. The incidence and mortality in the North and Center of the country are estimated to be higher and to decrease more steeply than those in the South, both for men and women. A total of around 13,000 incident cases, 57,000 prevalent cases, and 8,000 deaths are estimated to have occurred in Italy in 2005.

**Conclusions:** The incidence and mortality trends are estimated to decline during the entire period 1970-2010, with different slopes between northern-central and southern regions. The incidence and mortality are quite similar among Italian regions, showing that the risk of developing the disease diminishes and is becoming more homogeneous than in the past decades all over the country.

**Key words:** cancer registries, incidence, mortality, prevalence, stomach cancer, survival.

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**Acknowledgments:** The study was supported by: Foundation "Compagnia di San Paolo" (project "Sperimentazione di un sistema di rilevazione e diffusione dei dati di sopravvivenza per tumore"); Italian Ministry of Health (project "I TUMORI IN ITALIA" promoted by Alleanza Contro il Cancro); European Commission, Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (project "EUROCHIP-2: European Cancer Health Indicator Project – The Action").

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Received December 20, 2006; accepted March 5, 2007.