Age and Outcome in Gastrointestinal Cancers: A Population-Based Evaluation of Oesophageal, Gastric and Colorectal Cancer.

Abstract:

With demographic changes and partial representativeness of randomized studies the question arises which results are achieved in the treatment of the elderly. The objective was to analyse population-based data on gastrointestinal cancers in terms of age. Analyses included data of the Munich Cancer Registry, i.e. 4,014, 10,127 and 42,809 invasive oesophageal, gastric and colorectal cancer patients, respectively, which were diagnosed between 1998 and 2014. Tumour characteristics and outcome were analysed by age groups and therapy. Overall survival was analysed using the Kaplan-Meier method, and relative survival was computed as estimation for cancer-specific survival. Additionally, conditional survival of patients surviving at least 6 or 12 months was analysed by age. 21, 44 and 38% of oesophageal, gastric and colorectal cancer patients, respectively, were aged >75 years. Of these, 15, 46 and 73% were surgically treated with curative intent, respectively, which is significantly less than in younger patients. The total 5-year relative survival was 24, 33 and 66%, respectively. The differences in median survival by age group were diminished by selecting those surviving at least 6 or 12 months and those with curatively intended treatment. An adequate patient selection for therapies of these gastrointestinal cancers was
demonstrated at large. If the patients' general conditions allowed curatively intended treatment, it was applied and led to similar outcomes irrespective of age.