

Patterns of non-small cell lung cancer surgery rates in Queensland

A population-based study

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The rate of lung cancer surgery is lower in remote areas and among indigenous patients.

Background

We compared the rates of lung cancer surgery among non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients across geographic areas and demographic groups in Queensland, Australia.

Methods

Clinical and surgical data for all Queensland residents diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) between 2000 and 2010 were extracted from the Queensland Oncology Repository. Rates of lobectomy, partial resection, and pneumonectomy were compared across age, gender, indigenous status, area and remoteness of residence at diagnosis, and socioeconomic group.

Results

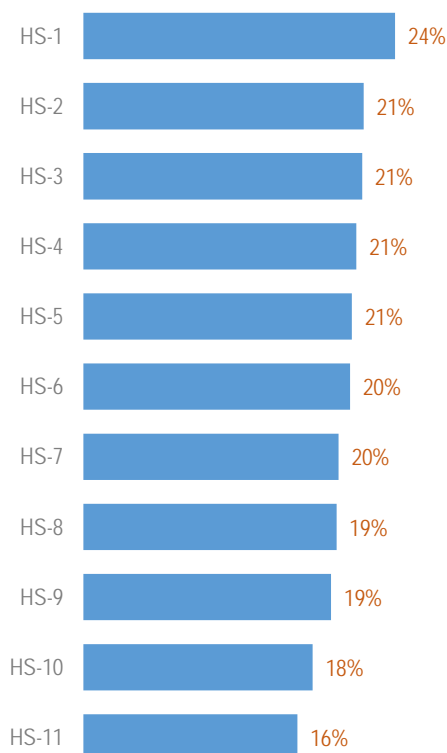
A total of 13,676 NSCLC patients were identified and included in this study. 2,799 patients (20%) underwent surgery for lung cancer. The rate of surgery was lowest in patients aged 75 and over (16%) and was slightly lower in males compared to females (19% vs 22%).

Across eleven areas with incidences of more than 100 patients over the study period, the rate ranged from 16% to 24% and was generally lower in the remote areas. Indigenous patients had significantly lower rates of surgery compared to non-indigenous patients (10% vs 20%). The latter is notable given the much younger age (median 62 yrs vs 69 yrs) of indigenous compared to non-indigenous patients.

Conclusion

The lower rates of surgery among indigenous lung cancer patients warrant urgent attention given the higher proportion of younger and potentially operable patients in this subgroup.

Surgery rate of NSCLC patients diagnosed 2000-2010 by Queensland Hospital & Health Service of residence



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