

THE BURDEN OF CANCER IN THE POPULATION OF SERBIA

Dragan Miljuš, Snežana Živković Perišić, Nataša Mickovski Katalina, Ivana Rakočević, Snežana Plavšić, Zorica Božić

Institute of Public Health of Serbia Dr Milan Jovanović Batut, Belgrade, Serbia

DOI: 10.5937/BatutPHCO24143M

Background: Malignant tumors have dominated in our national pathology for decades. They are the leading cause of illness, absenteeism, disability and premature death. Approximately every fifth resident of Serbia dies from malignant tumors.

Methods and Objectives: Data from the Cancer Registry in Serbia on incidence and mortality from malignant tumors for the year 2022 were analyzed with the aim of assessing the cancer burden of the population of Serbia. Absolute distributions, crude and standardized rates of cancer incidence and death per 100,000 population in Serbia were used. The rates were standardized using the direct standardization method, and the population of the world was used as the standard population (ASR).

Results: Based on the data from the Serbian Cancer Registry, in 2022, 41,578 new cancer patients were registred, while 19,350 people died from malignant tumors. Crude incidence rates were higher in men (682.4) than in women (571.7). The highest incidence of ASR in men was registered in Belgrade (469.1), and in women in the North Banat area (437.7). In the same year, the lowest ASR cancer incidence rates were observed in men in Raska (280.3), and in women in the Morava area (231.6). Crude mortality rates from cancer were 328.5 in men and 255.8 in women. The highest ASR mortality from cancer were observed in men in the North Banat area (178.3), and in women in the Middle Banat area (125.4). The lowest values of standardized mortality rates from malignant tumors were recorded in men in the Pcinja area (108.8) and in women in Morava area (73.3).

Conclusions: Although a decrease in the mortality rate from all malignant tumors has been registered, there is still an increase in the incidence rate from malignant diseases, which significantly burden the population of our country.

Keywords: incidence, mortality, cancer burden, Serbia