

## Cancer Key Facts

The following statistics and statements are taken from a variety of published reports, including the EURO CARE-4 Project published in *The Lancet Oncology* in August 2007 and The Karolinska Report published in *Annals of Oncology* in May 2007, to help paint a picture of the current disease climate.

### Cancer facts - morbidity and mortality

- Globally, more than 11 million people are diagnosed with cancer every year with the potential to rise to 16 million by 2020<sup>1</sup>
- The number of deaths in Europe is projected to increase 11% by 2015, compared to the 2000 level<sup>2</sup>
- Cancer causes 7 million deaths worldwide and 1.7 million in Europe every year<sup>3</sup>
- In Europe, 1 in 3 people will be affected by cancer in their lifetime<sup>4</sup>
- Cancer is the second most common cause of death in developed countries, accounting for approximately one fifth of all deaths<sup>1</sup>

### Prognosis, survival and attitudes

- Cancer Research UK are expecting survival rates for all common cancers to continually increase, with more than two-thirds of newly-diagnosed patients living for at least five years<sup>5</sup>
- In the last 20 years, the number of patients surviving cancer has increased significantly
- Survival of patients diagnosed between 2000 and 2002 in Europe and the USA showed:<sup>5</sup>
  - overall survival has improved for all cancers and for the major cancer sites
  - on average 5-year survival has improved for all cancers in Europe
  - For all cancers combined 5-year survival:
    - In the US was 66.3% in men and 62.9% in women
    - In Europe was 47.3% in men and 55.8% in women
- Nearly half of all cancer patients can expect to live more than ten years after diagnosis today. Only one quarter had this prognosis in the 1970s<sup>6</sup>

### What can be attributed to this shift in survival?

- Earlier diagnosis and innovative drugs mean more patients are being cured and those with terminal cancers are living longer.
- Many countries have recognized the significant potential of innovative therapies, such as biological drugs, in advancing the treatment of cancer
- The uptake of new drugs has resulted in:
  - Nearly half (44%) of the observed improvement in the two-year cancer survival rate between 1992 and 2000 at 50 USA cancer centres<sup>7</sup>
  - Around one sixth (14% – 19%) of the inter-country differences in 5-year cancer survival rates across 5 major European countries<sup>7</sup>
  - Nearly one third (30%) of the decline in cancer mortality rates seen in 20 countries (including the US and Europe) during the period 1995 – 2003. The observed decrease in mortality of 16% would have been only 11% if newer drugs had not been used<sup>7</sup>

### Further improvements still need to be made

- One third of all cancers could be cured if they were adequately diagnosed and treated<sup>4</sup>
- If all European countries attained the mean survival of Norway, Sweden and Finland, about 12% fewer cancer deaths (about 150,000) would occur in the five years after diagnosis<sup>5</sup>
- Cancer represents 17% of the total disease burden but only <7% of total healthcare costs
- Raising awareness and promoting screening should be encouraged and patients should have equal access to cancer drugs

### References

1. World Health Organisation (WHO). Challenges Facing Cancer Control Programmes. <http://who.int/cancer/media/en/410.pdf> Last accessed 13.11.07
2. Quinn MJ, d'Onofrio A, et al. Cancer mortality trends in the EU and acceding countries up to 2015. *Ann Oncol.* 2003; 14:1148-1152.
3. Ferlay J, Autier P, et al. Estimates of the cancer incidence and mortality in Europe in 2006. *Ann Oncol.* 2007; 18(3):581-592.
4. Stewart BW, Kleihues P (Eds). World Cancer Report. IARC Press, Lyon, 2003.
5. EURO CARE-4 Report.
  - a. Berrino F, De Angelis R, et al. Survival for eight major cancers and all cancers combined for European adults diagnosed in 1995-99: results of the EURO CARE-4 study. *Lancet Oncol.* 2007 Sep;8(9):773-783.
  - b. [Verdecchia A](#), [Francisci S](#), et al. Recent cancer survival in Europe: a 2000-02 period analysis of EURO CARE-4 data. *Lancet Oncol.* 2007 Sep;8(9):784-796
6. Cancer Research UK, 2007, Estimated overall ten-year survival rate for patients diagnosed with cancer in England and Wales
7. Jonsson B, Wilking N. The effect of cancer drug vintage on cancer survival and mortality. *Ann Oncol.* 2007; 18 (Supplement 3):iii67-iii77.