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ABSTRACTS

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Survival of Colorectal Cancer Patients in Iran

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Background: In Iran, colorectal cancer is the fourth cause of cancer after stomach, bladder, and prostate in men and the second leading cause after breast cancer in women. It is estimated that 4,000 new cases occur each year, with 1,150 deaths annually. The present study was undertaken to determine national survival statistics associated with colorectal cancers in Iran.

Methods: Data from Iran's national cancer registry department of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOH&ME) collected from March 2000 to March 2005 comprised the main source of colorectal cancer incidence statistics.

Results: One and 5-year survival proportions were 88% and 45%, respectively, for women vs. 86% and 39%, respectively, for men. The median overall survival for colorectal cancer in Iran was 3.5 years with a 95 % confidence interval of 3.2–3.8 years. The worst survival was for patients younger than 20 years of age and those older than 80.

Conclusion: Overall 5-year survival for colorectal cancer in Iran (41%) is comparable with some developed countries, but it is far worse compared with countries with advanced health care systems, or community-based screening programs. Thus, at the policy level, application of an appropriate national cancer control program and management guidelines should be under consideration.