



P07: BREAST CANCER INCIDENCE IN YOUNGER SWISS WOMEN

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Background

Breast cancer in younger women has received increased attention in recent years. Although breast cancer is uncommon in young women, it is the most frequent cancer and the leading cause of cancer death for younger women in developed countries. For Switzerland, the United States and several European countries, declines in breast cancer incidence have been reported since around the year 2000, after decades of increase, among women aged 50 and older. On the other hand an increase in the incidence of breast cancer in younger women has been reported in recent years. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate time trends in breast cancer incidence in younger women in Switzerland.

Methods

Data on invasive breast cancer cases were obtained from the Swiss Cancer Registries of Basel, Fribourg, Geneva, Graubünden/Glarus, Jura, Neuchâtel, St. Gallen-Appenzell, Ticino, Valais, Vaud and Zurich, covering the time period 1996 to 2009. Mid-year population estimates for the respective time period were supplied by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. For females aged 20-49 years, annual age-standardized incidence rates (ASIRs) (European standard) per 100,000 person-years and corresponding 95%-confidence intervals (95% CI) were calculated. For females aged 20-39 and 40-49 years, ASIRs and incidence rate ratios (IRRs) were calculated by grouped time periods, consisting of 3-5 incidence years. IRRs and corresponding 95% CI were calculated using Poisson regression adjusting for age (reference period 1996-2000).

Results

ASIRs in females aged 20-49 increased gradually since 1996, being 57.36 per 100,000 person-years in 1996 (95% CI 52.54-62.51) and rising to 68.34 (95% CI 63.40-73.57) per 100,000 person-years in 2009. Comparing the time-period 2007-2009 and the reference period 1996-2000, IRRs show values of 1.17 (95% CI 1.04-1.31) for the age-group 20-39 years and 1.04 (95% CI 0.97-1.10) for the age-group 40-49 years.

Conclusions

Our findings confirm a slight increase in the incidence of invasive breast cancer in younger women in Switzerland during the period 1996-2009. An increase in breast cancer incidence in younger patients is an important public health problem. It warrants further investigations to identify specific risk factors of this population and to better understand the biology of this particular breast cancer.