

Lung Cancer Timeframes

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Data Source: Cancer registry information on all lung cancers diagnosed January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Patients that did not have biopsy or had carcinoid tumors were excluded from this study

Reason for Report: To determine if the implied sense that patients timeframes between imaging to pathologic diagnosis to treatment were too long.

Findings: During this time period, there were 185 cases of lung cancer diagnosed. There were 162 deemed appropriate for this study. The following timeframes were observed:

Range from imaging to biopsy	= 0-159 days
Range from biopsy to treatment	= 0-113 days
Ranged from imaging to treatment	= 1-159
Average time from imaging to biopsy	= 21 days
Average time from biopsy to treatment	= 25 days
Average time from imaging to treatment	= 46 days
Median time from imaging to biopsy	= 12 days
Median time from biopsy to treatment	= 23 days
Median time from imaging to treatment	= 41 days

Below is the same information as above but separated by year of diagnosis:

2005 Cases	
Range to bx:	0-159
Range to tx:	0-113
Range image to tx	1-181
Avg to bx:	23.82
Avg to tx:	25.91
Avg image to tx	50.28
Med to bx:	13
Med to tx:	22
Med image to tx	44

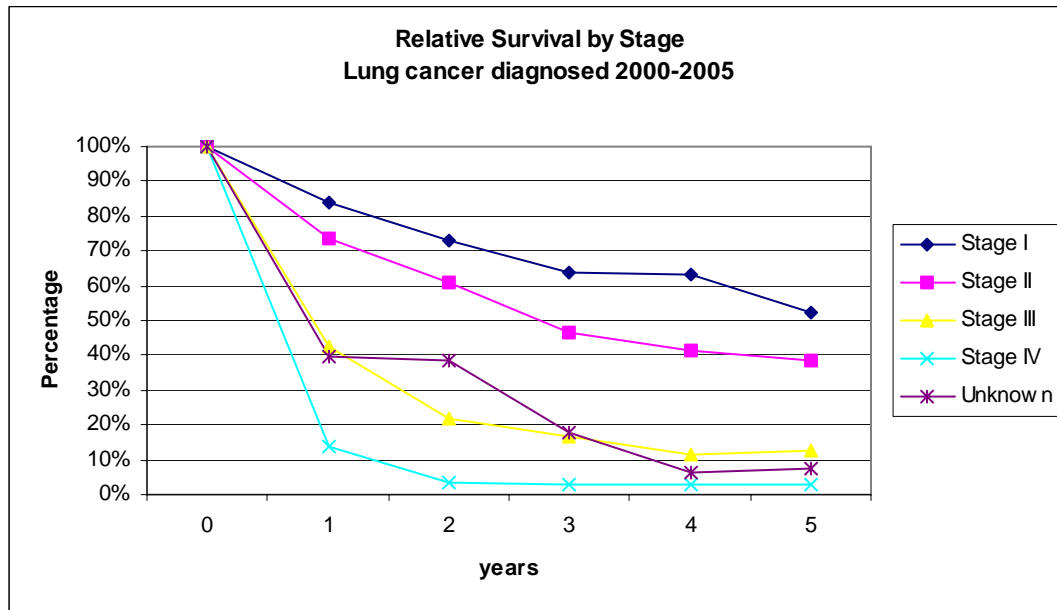
2006 Cases	
Range to bx:	0-52
Range to tx:	0-55
Range image to tx	4-115
Avg to bx:	16.41
Avg to tx:	26.14
Avg image to tx	42.54
Med to bx:	11
Med to tx:	25
Med image to tx	36

The following is a breakdown of the 162 cases eligible for this study by stage at diagnosis:

2005-Jun 06 Lung Cancer

Stage	Cases	Percent
I	50	30.86
II	6	3.7
III	47	29.02
IV	58	35.8
Unknown	1	0.62
TOTAL	162	

Below is the survival rate observed at SJH for Lung cancer cases diagnosed between 2000 and 2005 by stage at diagnosis.



Below is the distribution by SEER summary stage comparing St. Joseph Hospital with National data from 2002.

5-Year Lung Survival		
Stage	SJH 2005	National 2002
Local	63%	50%
Regional	20%	17%
Distant	6%	2%
Unknown	0%	10%

2005-Jun 06 Lung Cancer-SJH		
	Cases	Percent
Local	50	30.7%
Regional	51	31.3%
Distant	60	36.8%
Unknown	2	1.2%

2003 Lung Cancer –SJH compared to WA State		
	WA State	SJH
Local	17%	30%
Regional	26%	30%
Distant	47%	35%
Unknown	10%	5%

Other interesting facts:

73 of the patients in this study have expired and 88 are still alive as of June 2006.

Conclusions: A lung cancer study was undertaken based on a subjective observation that there were unnecessary delays in getting a patient started on treatment. This study showed that the median time to biopsy is 12 days, and from biopsy to treatment 23 days. Overall, the time from first suspicion for cancer to treatment is 41 days (6 weeks).

This is felt to be unacceptable and part of a special lung cancer initiative will work to reduce this timeframe. This study will then serve as a benchmark to assess the success of the initiative.

Overall, SJH 5-year survival is better than national numbers. The stage group at diagnosis is on par with Washington State. And finally, the incidence of lung cancer in Whatcom County remains below the overall state incidence.

References:

1. Commission on Cancer, National Cancer Database (NCDB) 5-year observed survival rates. Available at: <http://web.facs.org/ncdbr/survival8.cfm> Assessed May 2007.
2. National Oncology Database of IMPAC Medical systems.
3. Washington State Cancer Registry (WSCR) 2003 report. Available at: <http://ww3.doh.wa.gov/wscr/> Accessed March 2007