

Epidemiological Data on Colorectal Cancer in Albania

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Abstract

Background: Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a common malignant digestive disease, with an incidence worldwide that varies from 5 per 100,000 patients in low income countries to 50 per 100,000 in developed regions. The aim of our study is to evaluate the temporal trend incidence of colorectal cancer in Albania, a country with limited resources for CRC screening.

Study design: This is a retrospective study

Methods: The data were retrieved from the electronic patient files database at the University Hospital Mother Theresa, Tirana, during January 2011- September 2016. Colon and rectum cancers were coded according to ICD-9 diagnosis codes. Duplicate admissions were removed and first admission was used to calculate incidences. Age distribution was reported by sex and age group. Mean annual incidence per 100, 000 inhabitants was calculated using as a reference population the Census 2011 INSTAT, Albania, for Tirana district during 2011- 2015.

Results: A total number of 1529 CRC patients, 861 (56.3%) males and 668 (43.7%) females (M: F ratio 1.28:1) were included. The mean age at diagnosis was 61.95±11.55 for colon cancer and 61.53±11.60 for rectal cancer. Females developed CRC more frequently than males on the 5th and 6th decades. On the 7th decade CRC was more prevalent in males (p=0.006). The mean annual incidence of CRC in Albania resulted 9.7 per 100 000. In Tirana’s district, it resulted 13.6 per 100 000.

Conclusions: CRC affects slightly more frequently males than females in Albanian population. The mean age of 61.74 was significantly lower when compared to Western countries. In Albanian female patients the peak incidence of CRC was found a decade earlier than in males. CRC incidence in Albania results distinctively low in comparison to other European countries.

Keywords: Colorectal cancer, epidemiology, Albania.