

福島県県民健康管理調査における「甲状腺検査」評価についてのコメント

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2014年3月2日

1. 本調査から得られた甲状腺がんなどの頻度については、原則、内部比較（性別、年齢別、あるいは、地域、放射線線量別など）に留めるべきと考えます。但し、その多少を評価する際には、偶然^{*1}、バイアス^{*2}、交絡^{*3}による可能性を十分検討する必要があります。
2. 参考として外部比較を試みる場合は、最も適当なデータは、環境省が並行して実施している、長崎、山梨、弘前市における調査結果が唯一ともいえるものと考えます。しかしながら、対象数が少ないことによる偶然、地域が異なることによるバイアスや交絡の可能性についても十分考慮して解釈することが必須です。

3. 今回の検査による有病データ（検査対象者数当たりの甲状腺がんの発見率）を、国内外の罹患率データ（人口当たりの1年間における臨床診断数）（日本の全国推計値や米国 SEER データなど）に基づくと比較は、原則として、極力避けるべきと考えます。参考としての利用は許容できるかもしれませんが、多くの誤解を生むことを懸念しています。
 - 発見された甲状腺がんの全てが1年以内に臨床的に診断されるがんであれば検査による有病データを罹患データと比較することは可能。
 - 検査で診断されなければ、臨床的に診断されるまで数年かかる、あるいは、数年かかる、さらには、生涯臨床的ながんにならない可能性がある場合は、罹患データとの比較は不相当。

＜参考＞

検査の普及に伴う甲状腺がんなど、死亡率とは相応しないがん罹患率の急激な増加が国際的にも大きな問題となっています。例えば、韓国の甲状腺がんの罹患率は2000年以降急増し（死亡率は不変）、今や、女性では乳がんを遥かに上回る最頻のがんとなっているという現状があります。このような現状も正しく認識すべきかと思えます。また、過去に国内で実施されていた新生児の神経芽細胞腫のマススクリーニングが、何故、行われなくなっただかについても参考にして検討する必要があると考えます。

*1 偶然：真値との差に方向性のない誤差(random error)。確率的に起こる誤差。

*2 バイアス：真値との差に一定の方向性のある誤差(systematic error)。選択バイアス（例

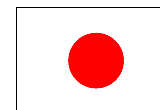
えば、症状がある人ほど、調査に参加する) と情報バイアス (例えば、完全に客観化出来ない検査における意識的・無意識的な判定による誤差) などがある。甲状腺検査をしていない地域との比較は、典型的な情報バイアスになる。

*3 交絡：要因と疾病の真の関連性が第 3 の要因の影響により過大ないし過少評価される現象。例えば、ある地域に甲状腺がんが多いという現象が、実際は、性別・年齢構成、あるいは、ヨウ素 (乳頭がんのリスク要因の可能性) 摂取量の違いによりもたらされる。

世界における甲状腺がんの実態と動向

(独)国立がん研究センター
がん予防・検診研究センター
津金昌一郎

第2回甲状腺検査評価部会
2014年3月2日(日) 13:00-15:00
杉妻会館4階「牡丹」(福島県福島市)

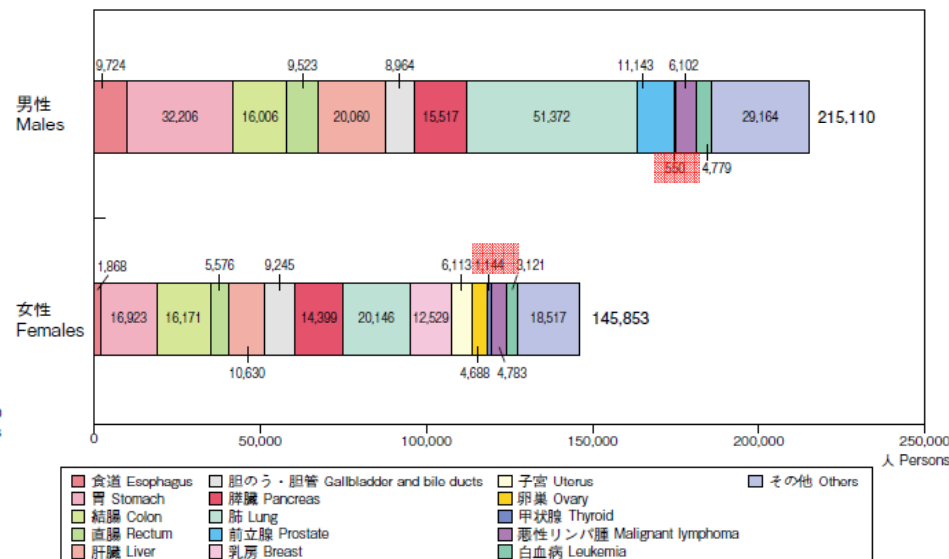
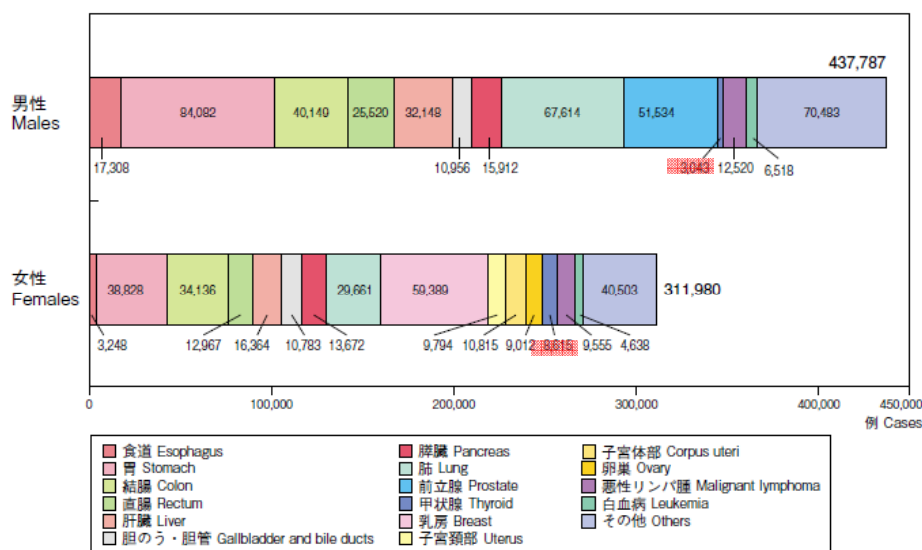


甲状腺がんの実態

罹患数(2008年): 11,658 (1.6%) 死亡数(2012年): 1,694 (0.47%)

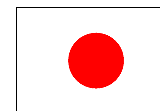
男性: 3,043例(0.7%)、女性: 8,615例(2.8%)

男性: 550人(0.25%)、女性: 1,144人(0.78%)



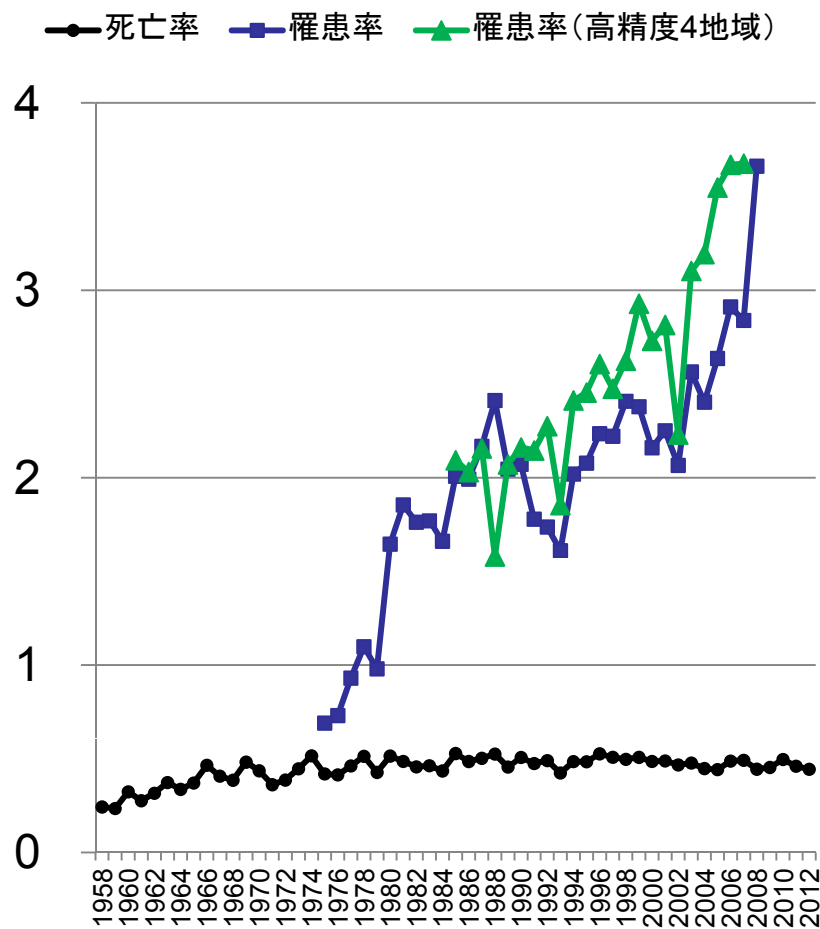
5年相対生存率: 92.2%

(地域がん登録: 2003~2005年診断例)

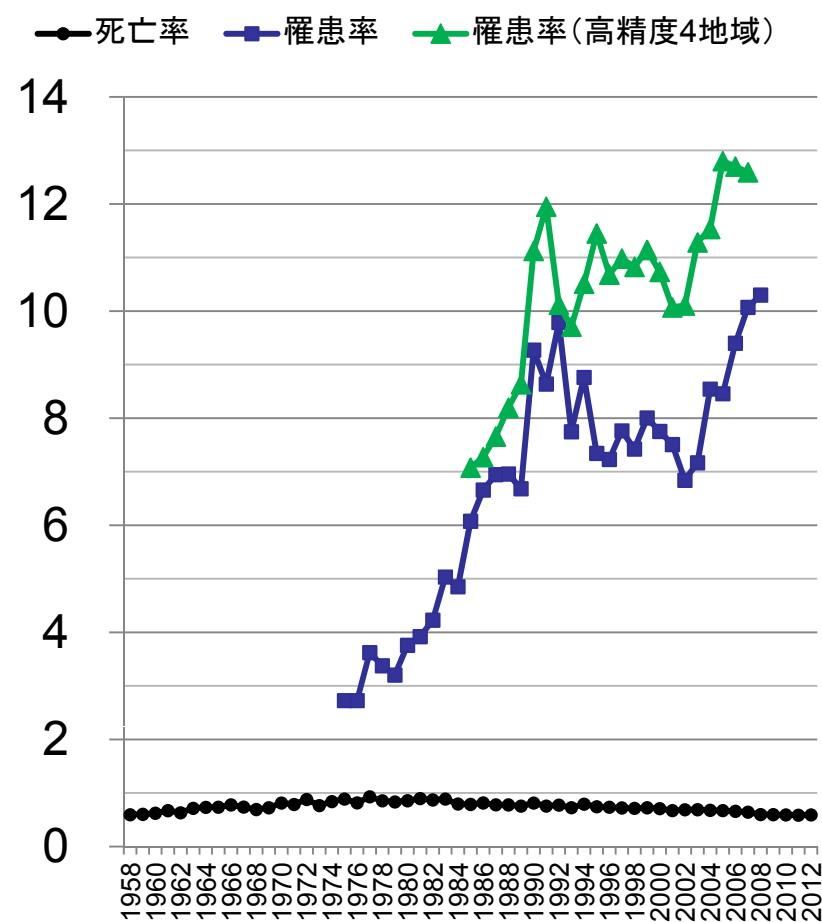


甲状腺がん年齢調整死亡率・罹患率の年次推移 (1985年モデル人口10万対)

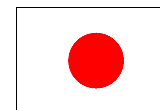
男性



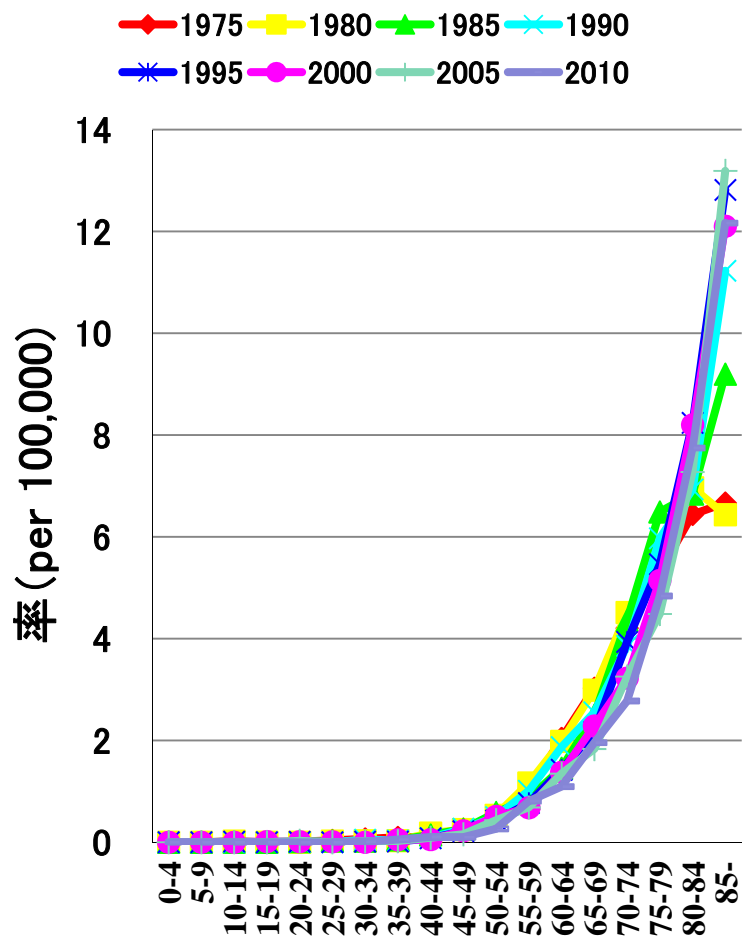
女性



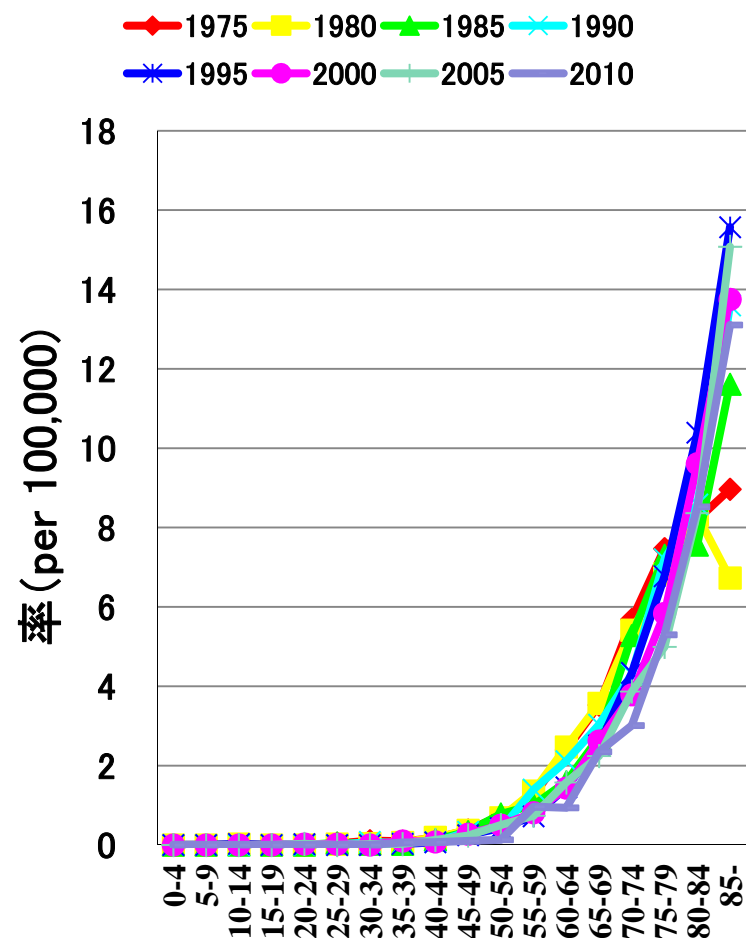
年齢階級別甲状腺がん死亡率



男性



女性

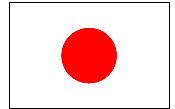


累積死亡リスク(%) *2011年データに基づく推計

男性: 0.00 (-20歳), 0.03 (-75歳), 0.07 (生涯)

女性: 0.00 (-20歳), 0.03 (-75歳), 0.12 (生涯)

年齢階級別甲状腺がん死亡数



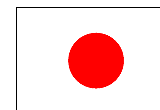
男性

	0-4歳	5-9歳	10-14歳	15-19歳	計	全年齢
1975人口 (千人)	5093	4552	4207	4012		
1975-79	0	0	2	1	3	914
1980-84	0	0	2	0	2	1088
1985-89	0	0	0	1	1	1638
1990-94	0	1	0	0	1	1523
1995-99	0	0	0	1	1	1910
2000-04	0	0	0	2	2	2132
2005-09	0	0	1	0	1	2466
2010	0	0	0	0	0	582
2011	0	0	0	0	0	546
2012	0	0	0	0	0	550

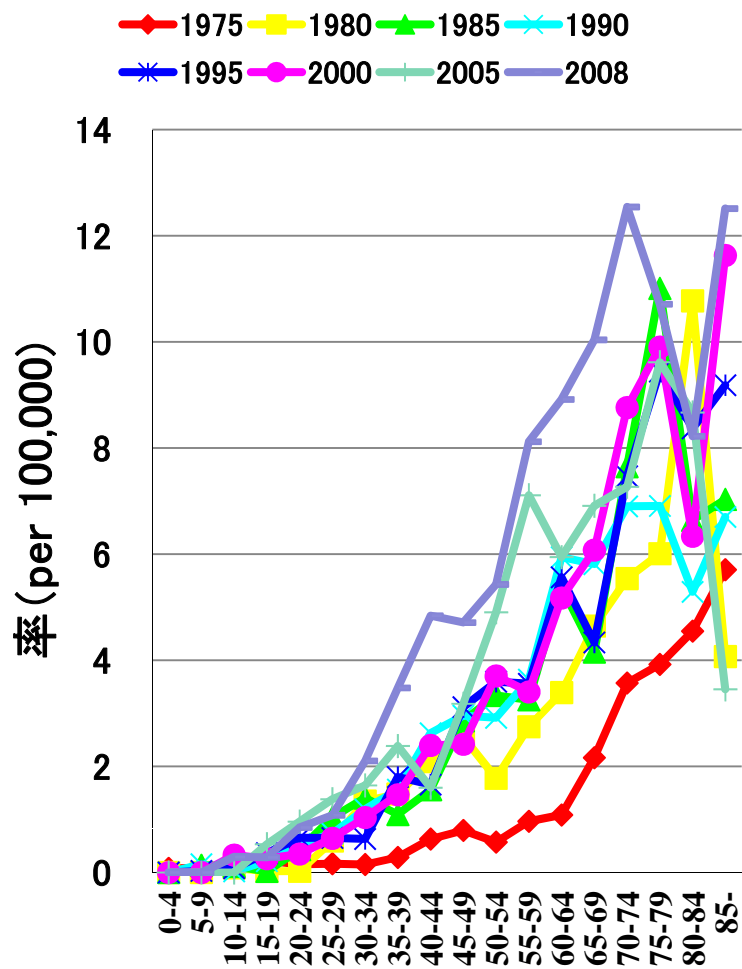
女性

	0-4歳	5-9歳	10-14歳	15-19歳	計	全年齢
1975人口 (千人)	4841	4325	4016	3880		
1975-79	0	0	1	3	4	2229
1980-84	0	0	1	0	1	2663
1985-89	0	0	0	2	2	2939
1990-94	0	0	1	2	3	3543
1995-99	0	0	1	0	1	4110
2000-04	0	0	1	1	2	4703
2005-09	0	0	0	0	0	5194
2010	0	0	0	0	0	1087
2011	0	0	0	0	0	1091
2012	0	0	0	0	0	1144

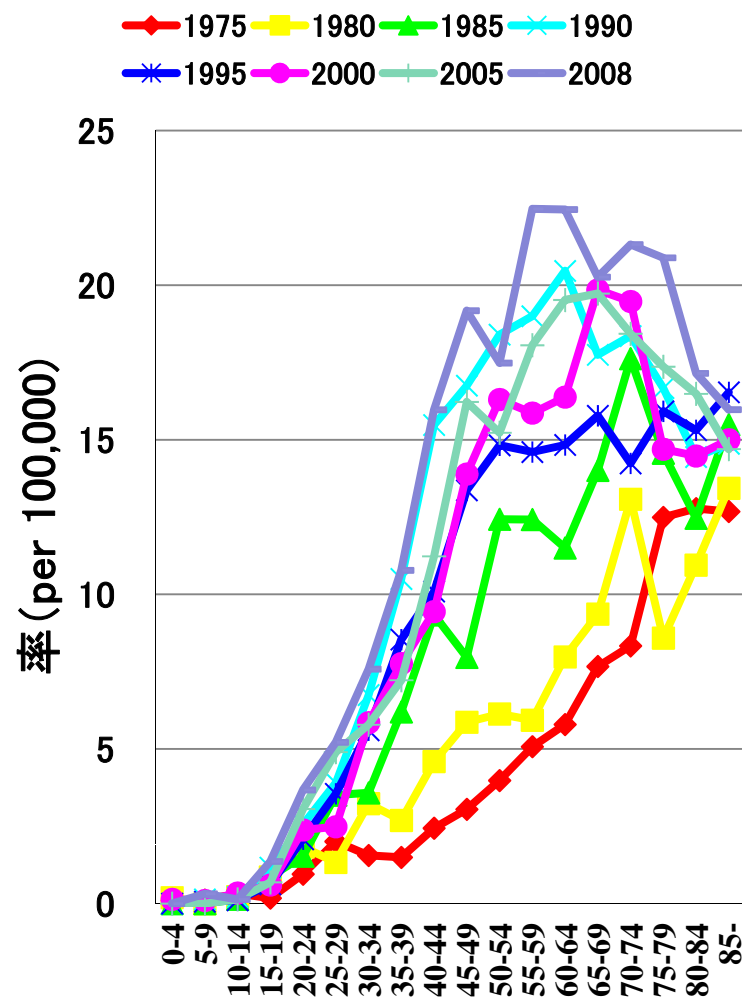
年齢階級別甲状腺がん罹患率



男性



女性

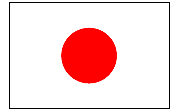


累積罹患リスク(%) *2007年データに基づく推計

男性: 0.00 (-20歳), 0.21 (-75歳), 0.29 (生涯)

女性: 0.01 (-20歳), 0.81 (-75歳), 1.03 (生涯)

年齢階級別甲状腺がん罹患数



男性

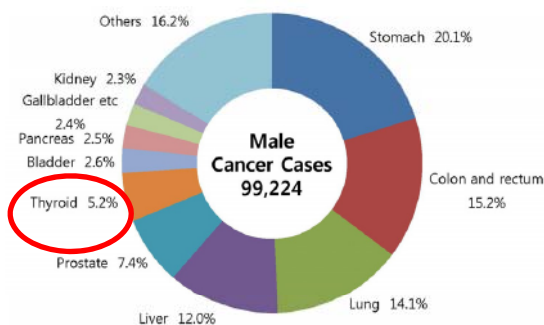
	0-4歳	5-9歳	10-14歳	15-19歳	計	全年齢
1975人口 (千人)	5093	4552	4207	4012		
1975-79	18	16	18	34	86	2016
1980-84	0	14	17	4	35	4472
1985-89	0	18	32	11	61	6198
1990-94	0	13	20	63	96	5972
1995-99	0	2	41	53	96	8059
2000-04	0	4	27	40	71	8987
2005-08	0	0	9	46	55	9887

女性

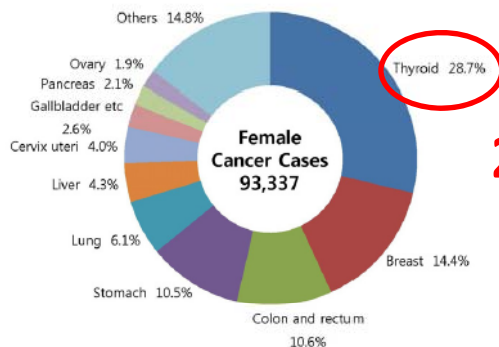
	0-4歳	5-9歳	10-14歳	15-19歳	計	全年齢
1975人口 (千人)	4841	4325	4016	3880		
1975-79	30	21	66	76	193	8496
1980-84	12	0	27	149	188	13202
1985-89	6	4	25	122	157	22157
1990-94	0	8	49	273	330	31442
1995-99	0	5	52	141	198	29197
2000-04	13	7	51	136	207	31098
2005-08	0	9	14	136	159	31980



Proportion of Cancer Incidence (2009)



5.2%

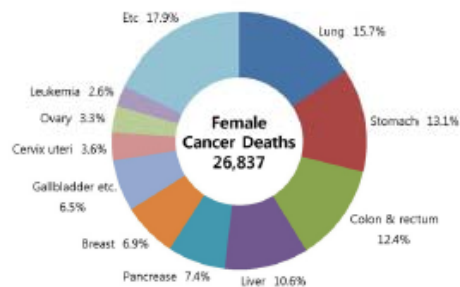
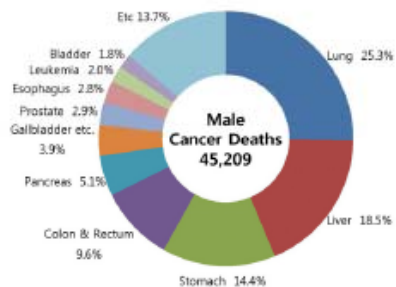


28.7%

-10

Source) Ministry of Health & Welfare, Korea Central Cancer Registry, 2011

Relative Frequency of Cancer Deaths (2010)



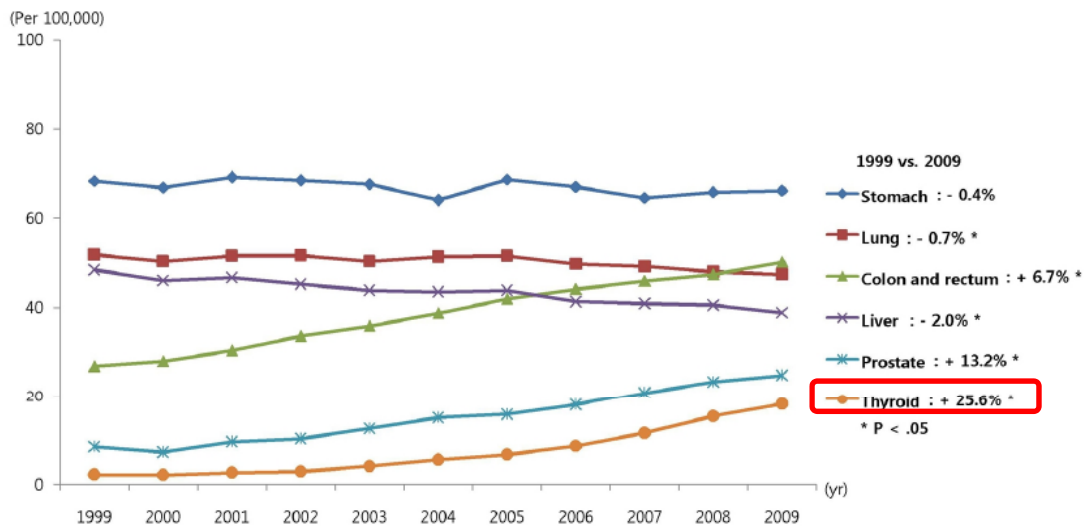
Source) STATISTICS KOREA, 2011



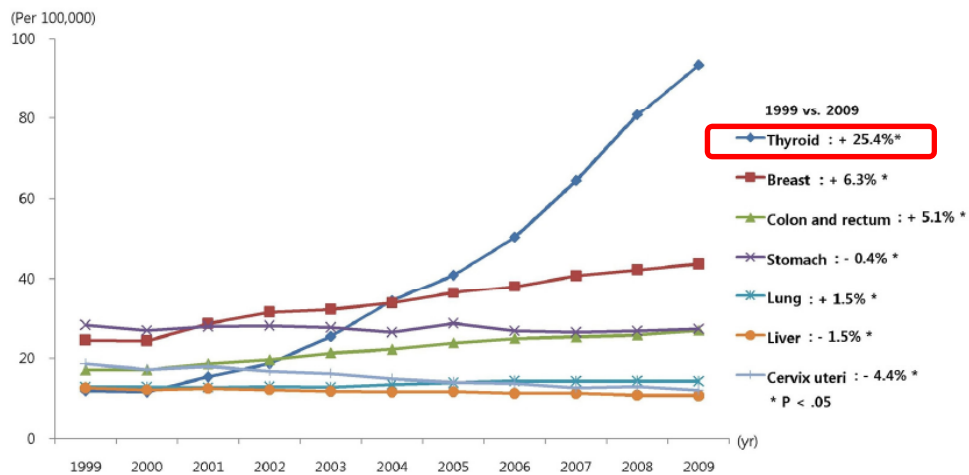
<http://www.ncc.re.kr/english/infor/cff.jsp>



Trends of Age-standardized Incidence Rates of Major Cancers : Male



Trends of Age-standardized Incidence Rates of Major Cancers : Female

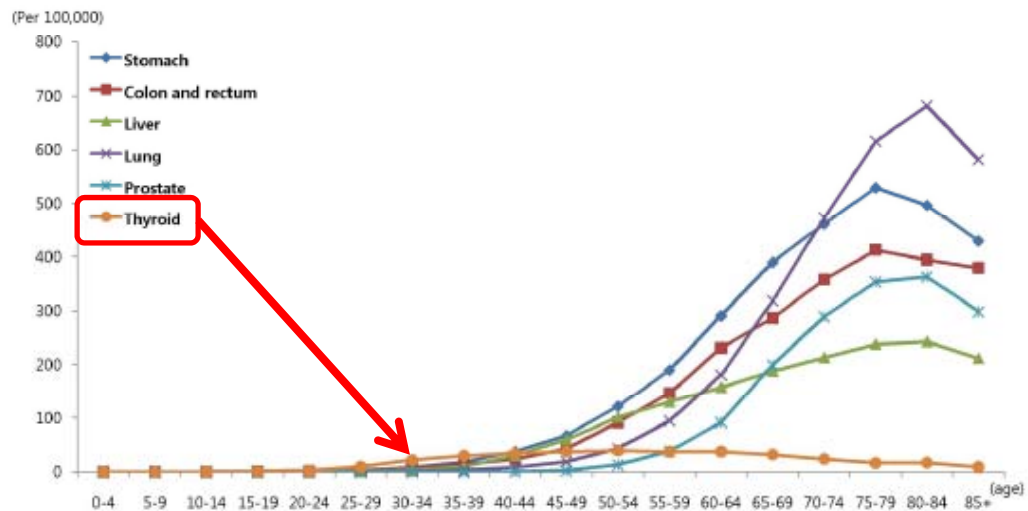


Source) Ministry of Health & Welfare, Korea Central Cancer Registry, 2011

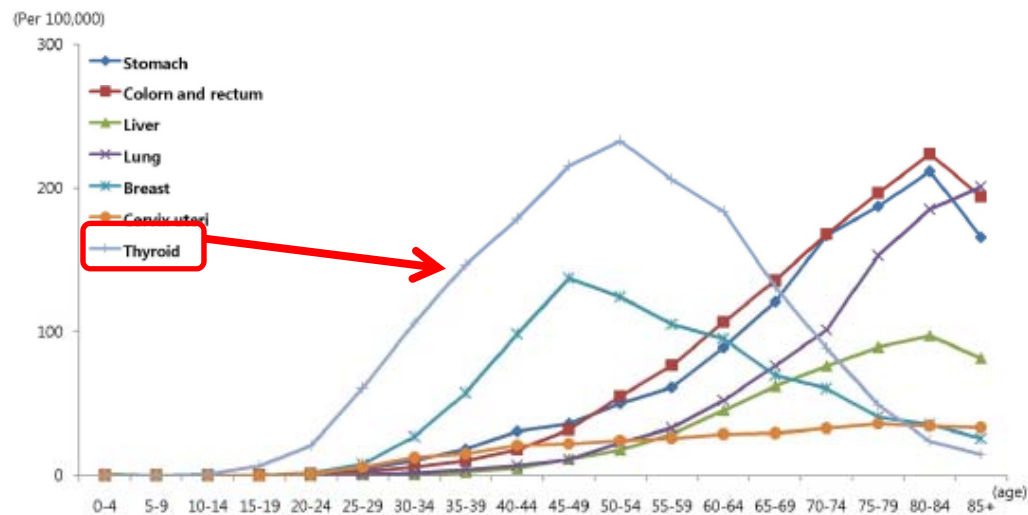
Note) ASR (Age-standardized rate) Standard population: Korean Mid-year population in 2010



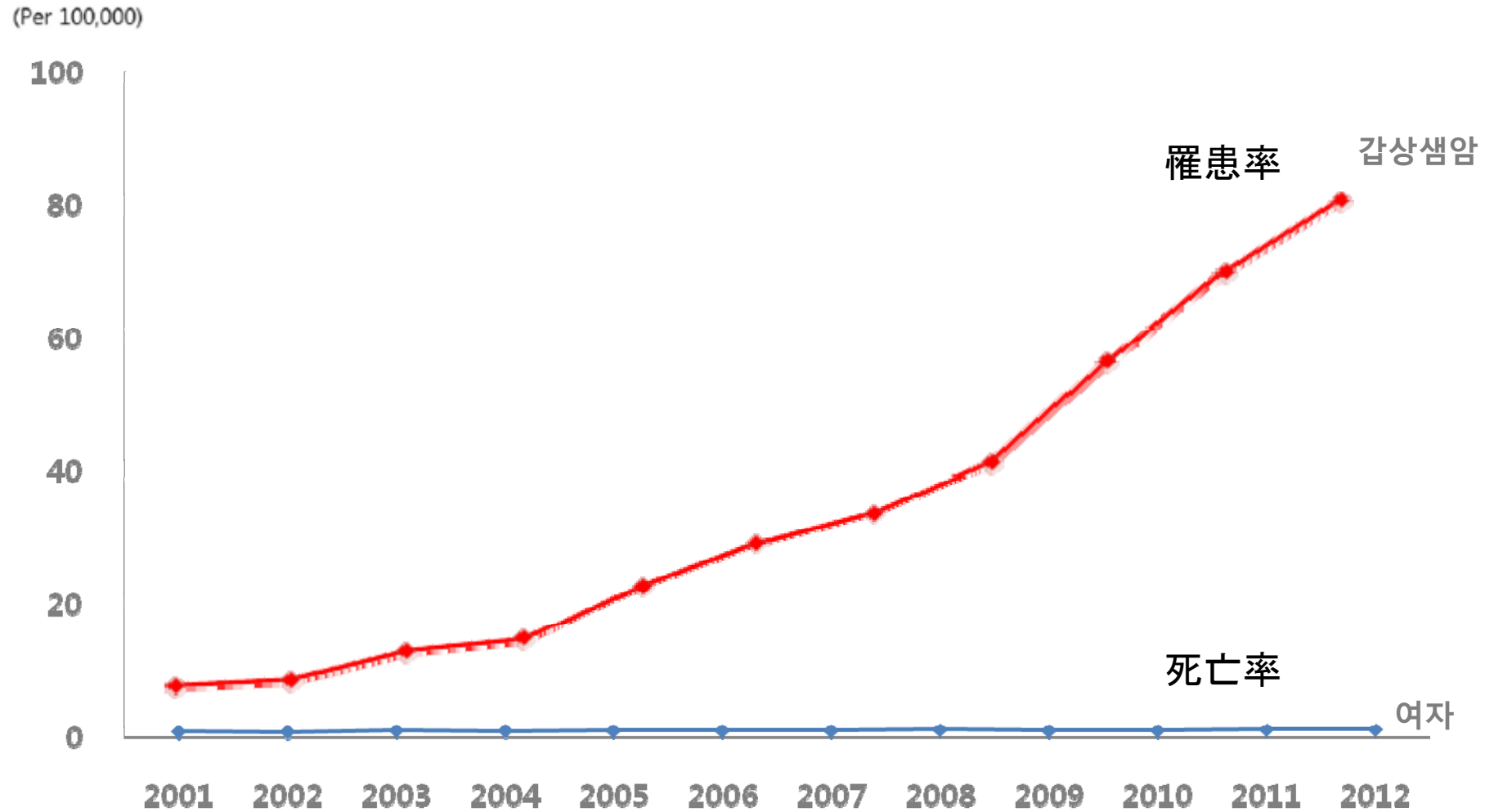
Age-specific Cancer Incidence Rates : Male (2009)



Age-specific Cancer Incidence Rates : Female (2009)



甲状腺がん罹患率・死亡率の年次推移 (韓国、女性)



Source) 통계청 사회통계국 인구동향과

甲状腺がん検診の現状 (National Survey)



3,633人 (20-69歳男女)

甲状腺超音波受診
846人 (23.3%)

女性: 31.3%
50-59歳: 28.8%

異常なし
70.7%

結節
23.6%

がん
1.9%

外科手術
1cm未満: 3.9%
1cm以上: 12%

外科手術
1cm未満: 87.5%
1cm以上: 100%

갑상선암의 건강검진 서비스 제공을 위한 근거 창출연구

National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency (<http://neca.re.kr>)



SEER Stat Fact Sheets: Thyroid Cancer

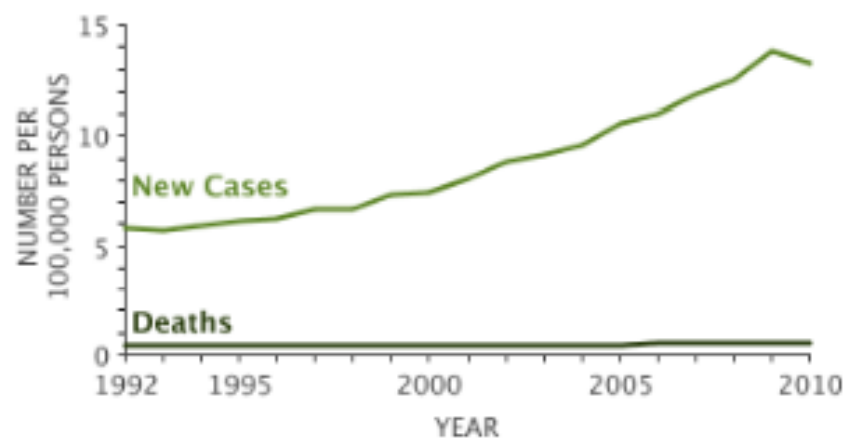
[Expand All](#) [Collapse All](#)

Statistics at a Glance Show Less -

> At a Glance

Estimated New Cases in 2013	60,220
% of All New Cancer Cases	3.6%
Estimated Deaths in 2013	1,850
% of All Cancer Deaths	0.3%

Year	1975	1980	1985	1989	1993	1997	2001	2005
5-Year Relative Survival	92.4%	92.8%	92.4%	93.3%	94.2%	95.3%	96.2%	97.3%



Percent Surviving 5 Years

97.7%

2003-2009

Number of New Cases and Deaths per 100,000: The number of new cases of thyroid cancer was 12.2 per 100,000 men and women per year. The number of deaths was 0.5 per 100,000 men and women per year. These rates are age-adjusted and based on 2006-2010 cases and deaths.

Lifetime Risk: Lifetime risk is the probability of developing or dying from a disease in the course of one's lifespan. Based on the most recent data, approximately 1.1 percent of men and women will be diagnosed with thyroid cancer at some point during their lifetime.

Prevalence of this cancer: There are an estimated 534,973 people currently living with thyroid cancer in the United States.

米国における甲状腺がん年齢調整罹患率の推移

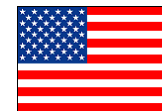
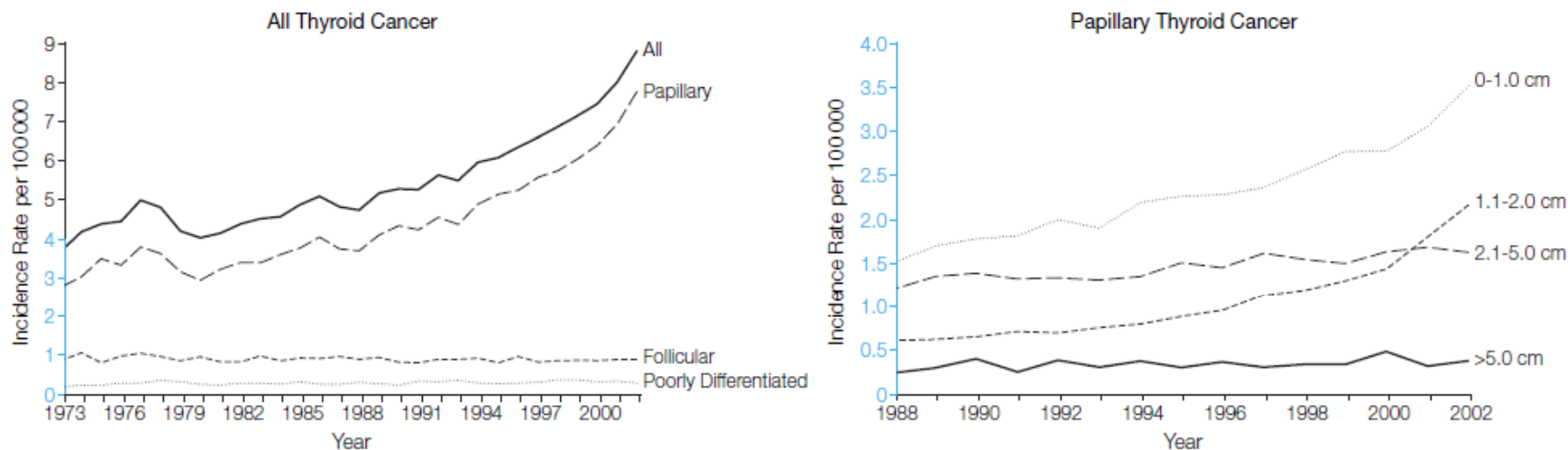
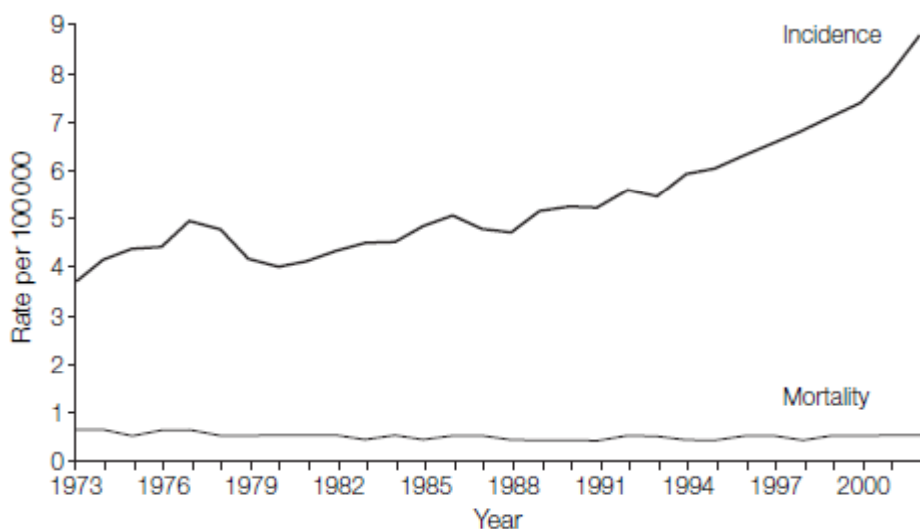


Figure 1. Trends in Incidence of Thyroid Cancer (1973-2002) and Papillary Tumors by Size (1988-2002) in the United States



Poorly differentiated indicates anaplastic and medullary cancers.

Figure 2. Thyroid Cancer Incidence and Mortality, 1973-2002



Conclusions

The increasing incidence of thyroid cancer in the United States is predominantly due to the **increased detection of small papillary cancers**. These trends, combined with the known existence of a substantial reservoir of subclinical cancer and stable overall mortality, suggest **that increasing incidence reflects increased detection of subclinical disease**, not an increase in the true occurrence of thyroid cancer.

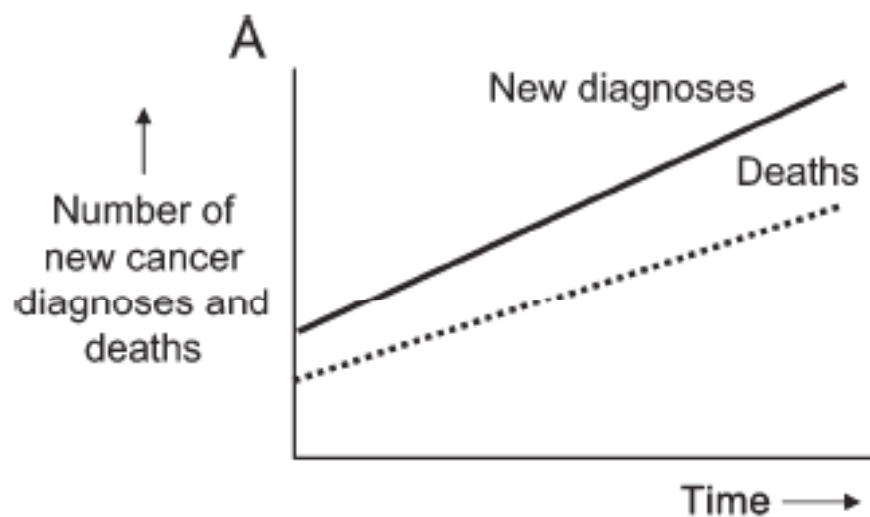
Davies L and Welch HG. JAMA 2006;295:2164-2167.

参考)がん過剰診断のエビデンス

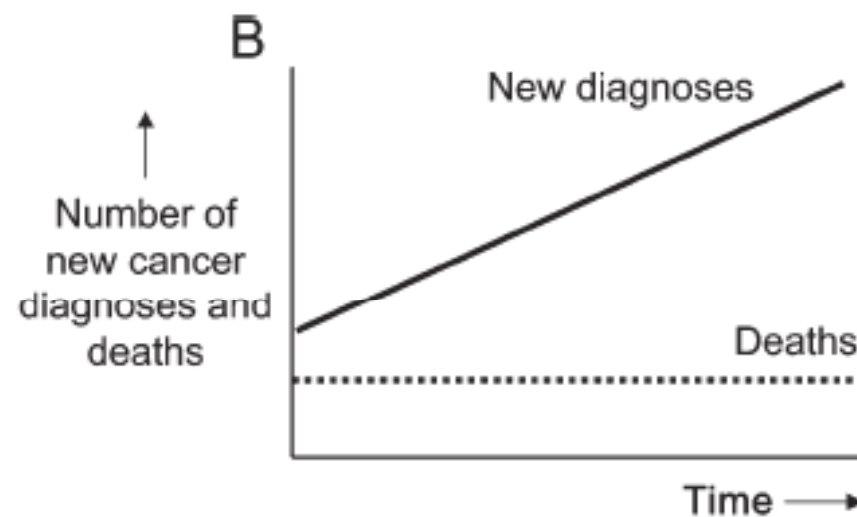
Cancer overdiagnosis: the diagnosis of a “cancer” that would otherwise not go on to cause symptoms or death.

(その診断がなければ、その人の寿命前に症状をもたらしたり、あるいは、その人の死因に至ることのないがんの診断)

がんの真の増加と過剰診断の疑い



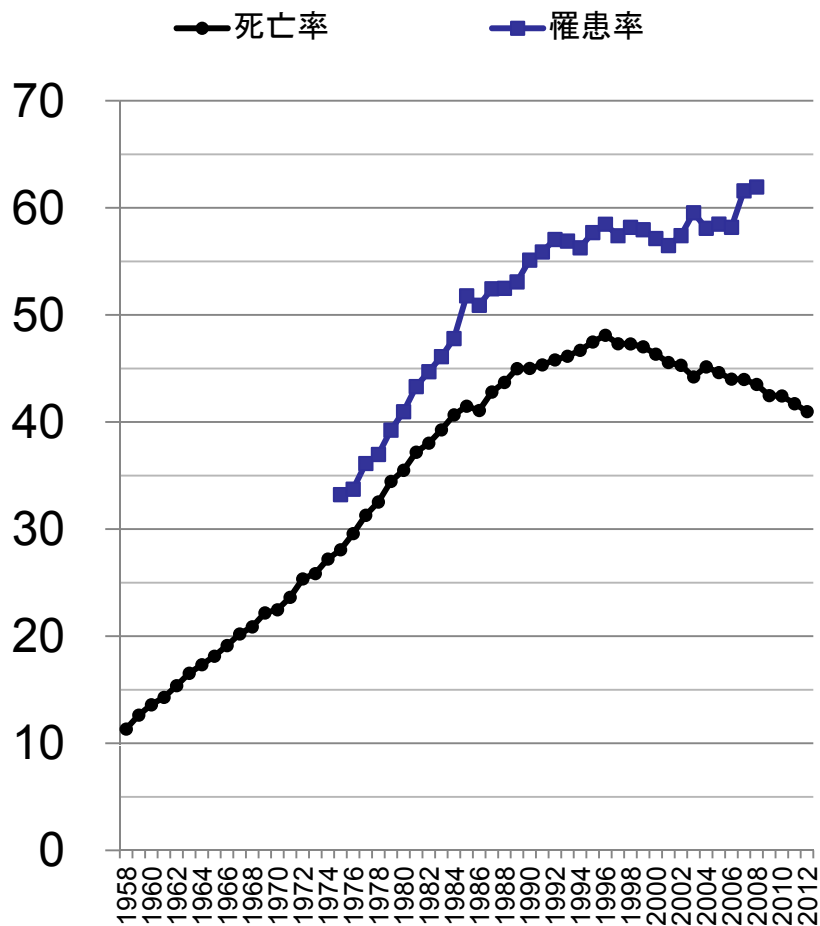
Suggests a true increase in the amount of cancer



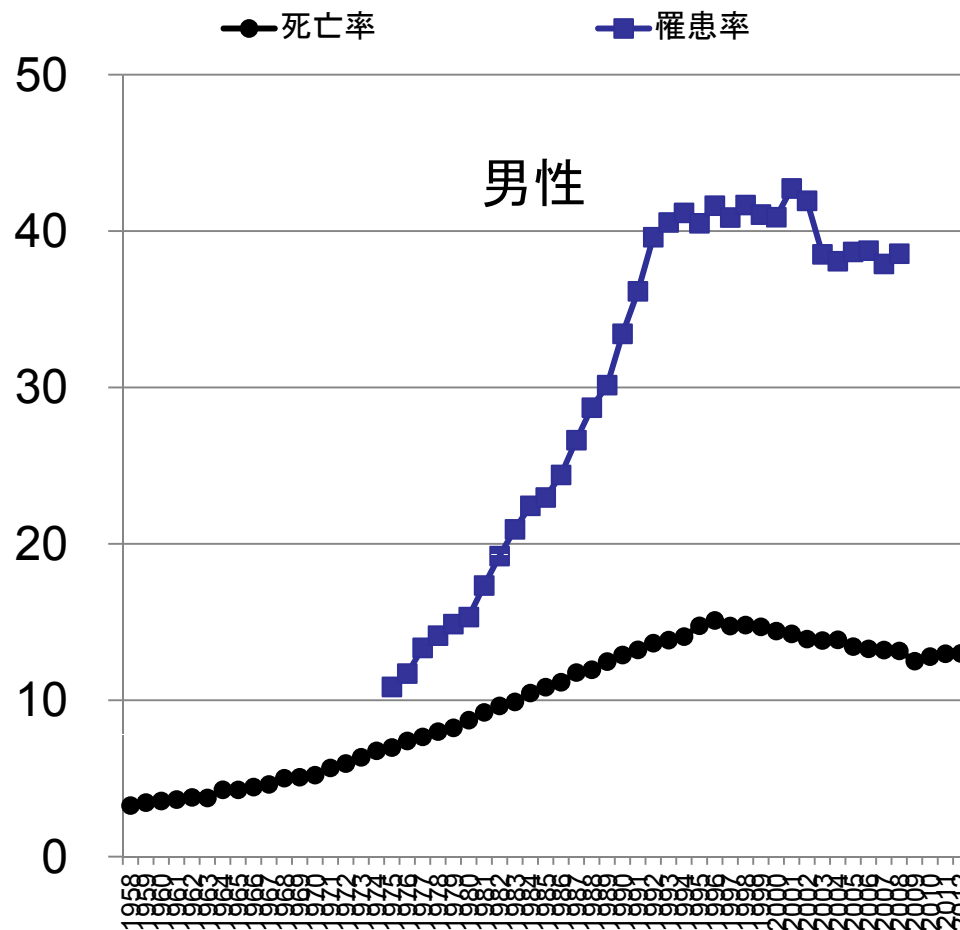
Suggests overdiagnosis of cancer

肺・結腸がん年齢調整死亡率・罹患率の年次推移 (1985年モデル人口10万対)

肺がん(男性)

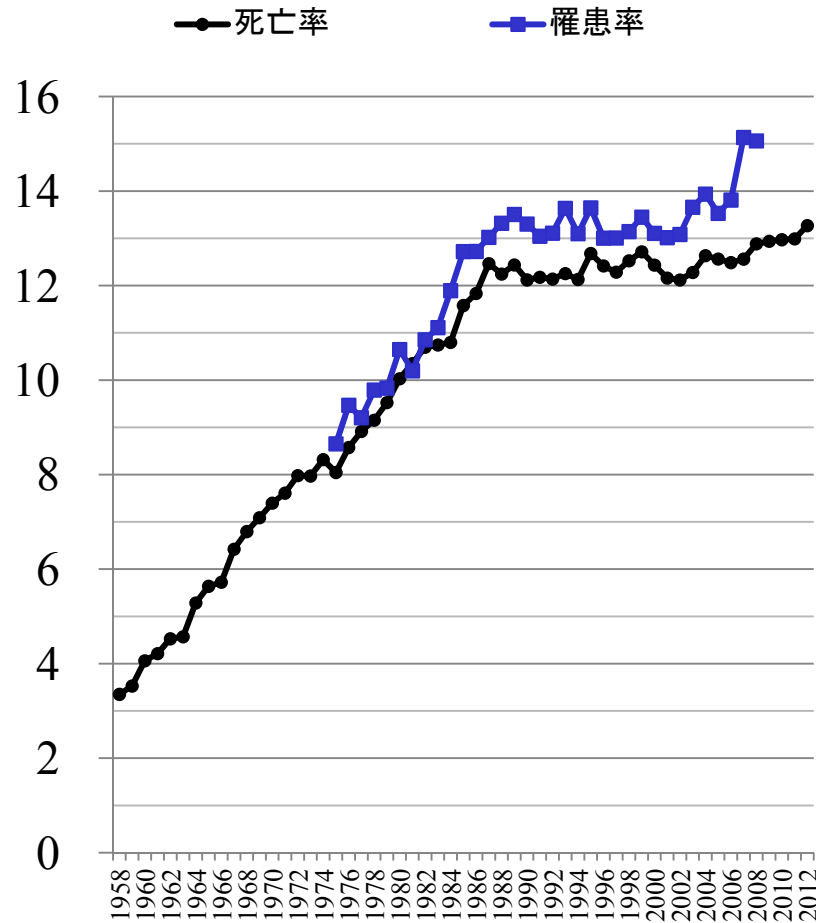


結腸がん(男性)

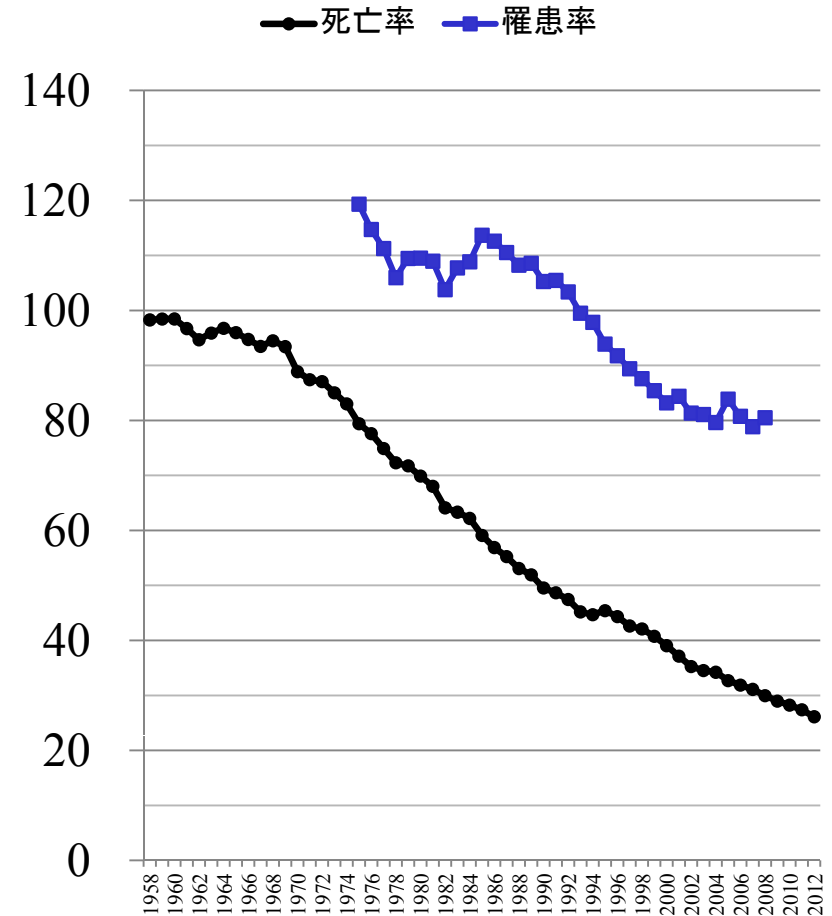


膵臓・胃がん年齢調整死亡率・罹患率の年次推移 (1985年モデル人口10万対)

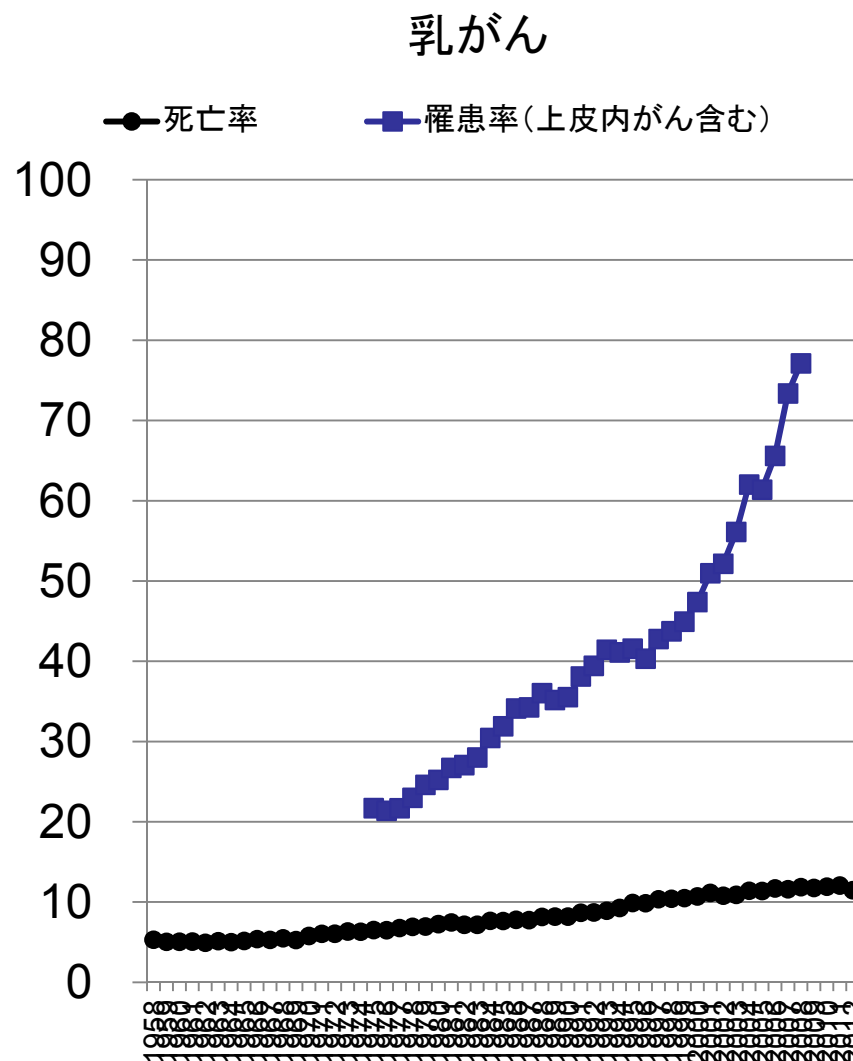
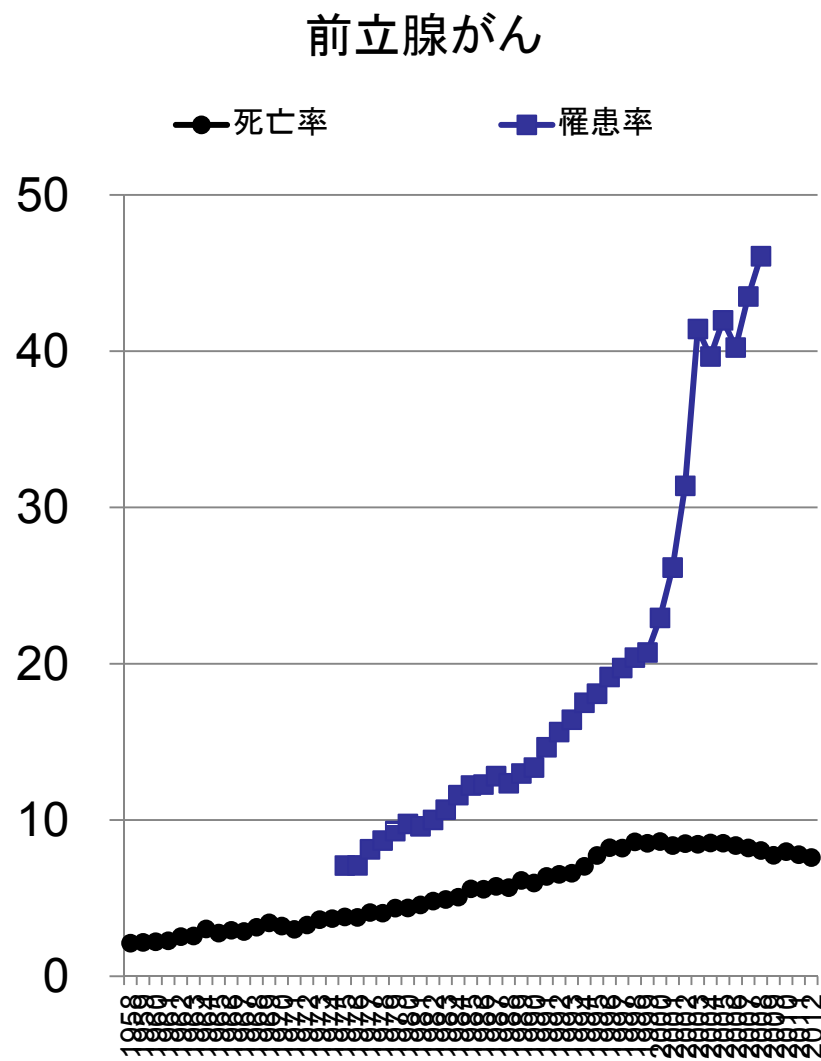
膵臓がん(男性)



胃がん(男性)



前立腺・乳がん年齢調整死亡率・罹患率の年次推移 (1985年モデル人口10万対)



米国SEERにおける罹患率と死亡率の推移

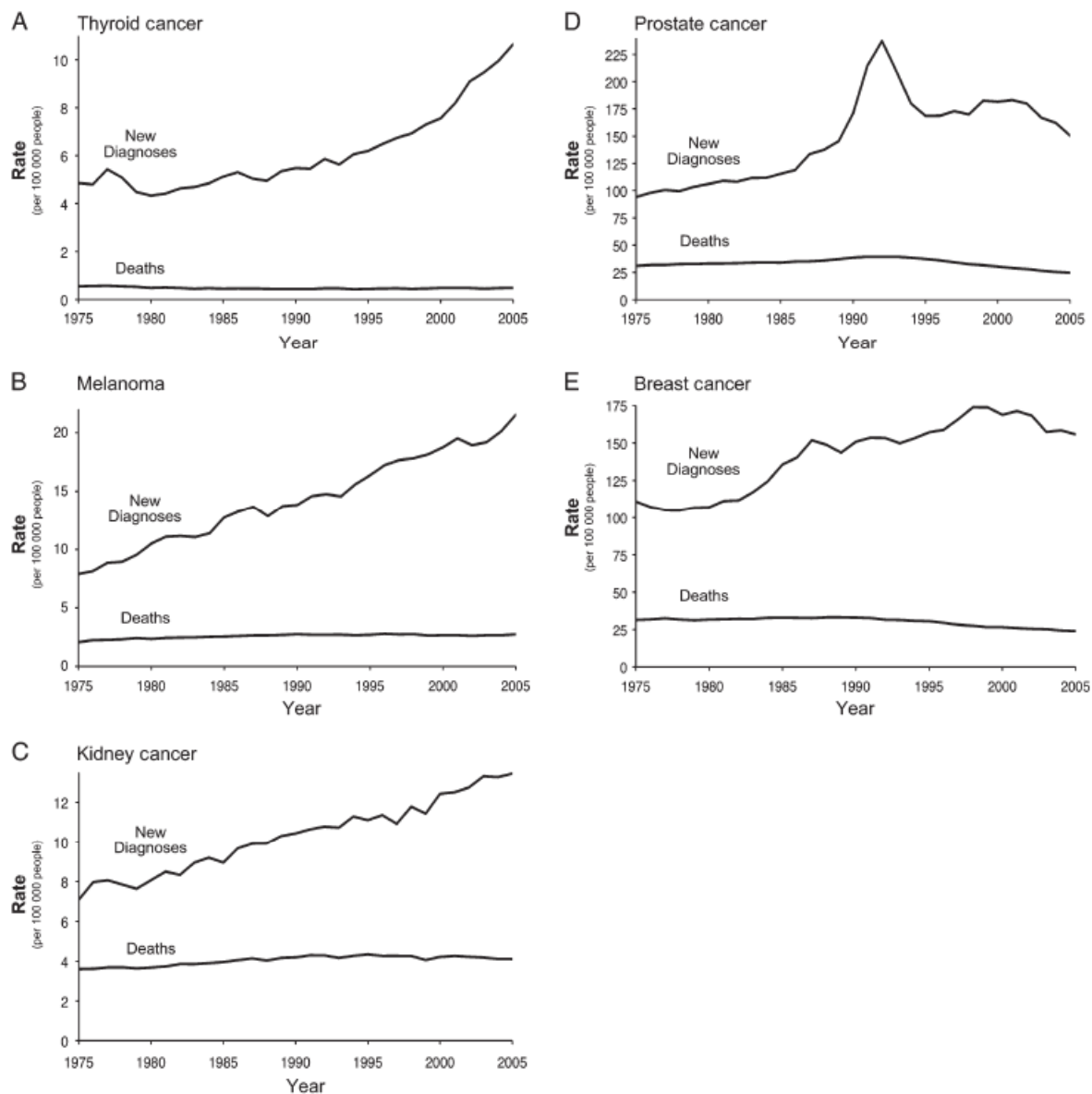
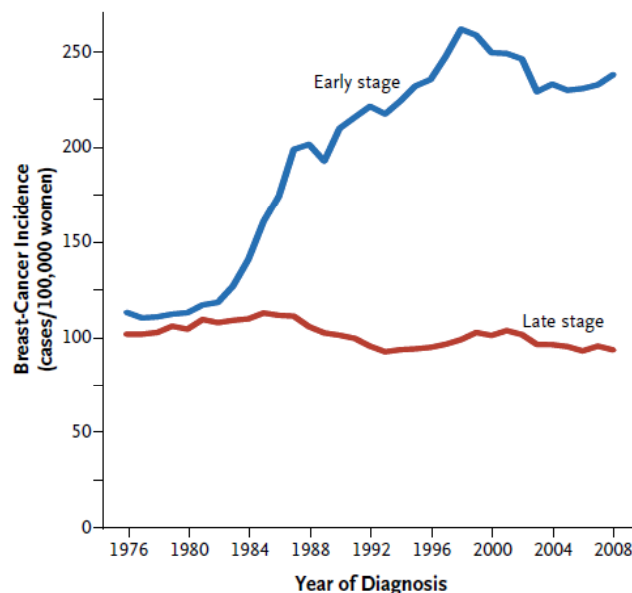
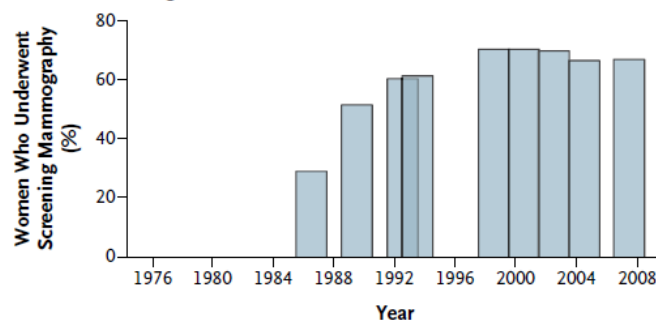


Fig.6 in Welch HG and Black WC. J Natl Cancer Inst 2010;102:605-613.

乳がんの進展度別罹患率の推移

A Women 40 Yr of Age or Older



B Women Younger Than 40 Yr of Age

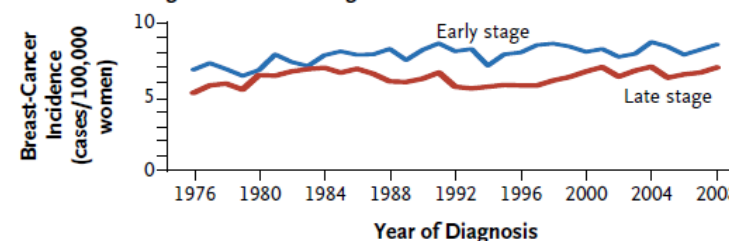


Figure 1. Use of Screening Mammography and Incidence of Stage-Specific Breast Cancer in the United States, 1976–2008.

Panel A shows the self-reported use of screening mammography and the incidence of stage-specific breast cancer among women 40 years of age or older. Panel B shows the incidence of stage-specific breast cancer among women who generally did not have exposure to screening mammography — those younger than 40 years of age.

40歳以上の女性10万人当たり早期乳がんの年間罹患率は、マンモグラフィ導入以前(1976-1978年)の112から、30年後(2006-2008)には234へとほぼ倍増。一方、進行期に至って初めて診断が付けられるケースは、女性10万人当たり102から94へと約8%減少。→ 早期乳がん122例の増加に対して、進行乳がんの減少は8例。

過剰診断された米国人女性は2008年推計で7万人以上(全乳がん診断例の31%)

Bleyer A, et al. NEJM 2012;367:1998- 2005.

潜在がんが全て発見された場合の 過剰診断の確率

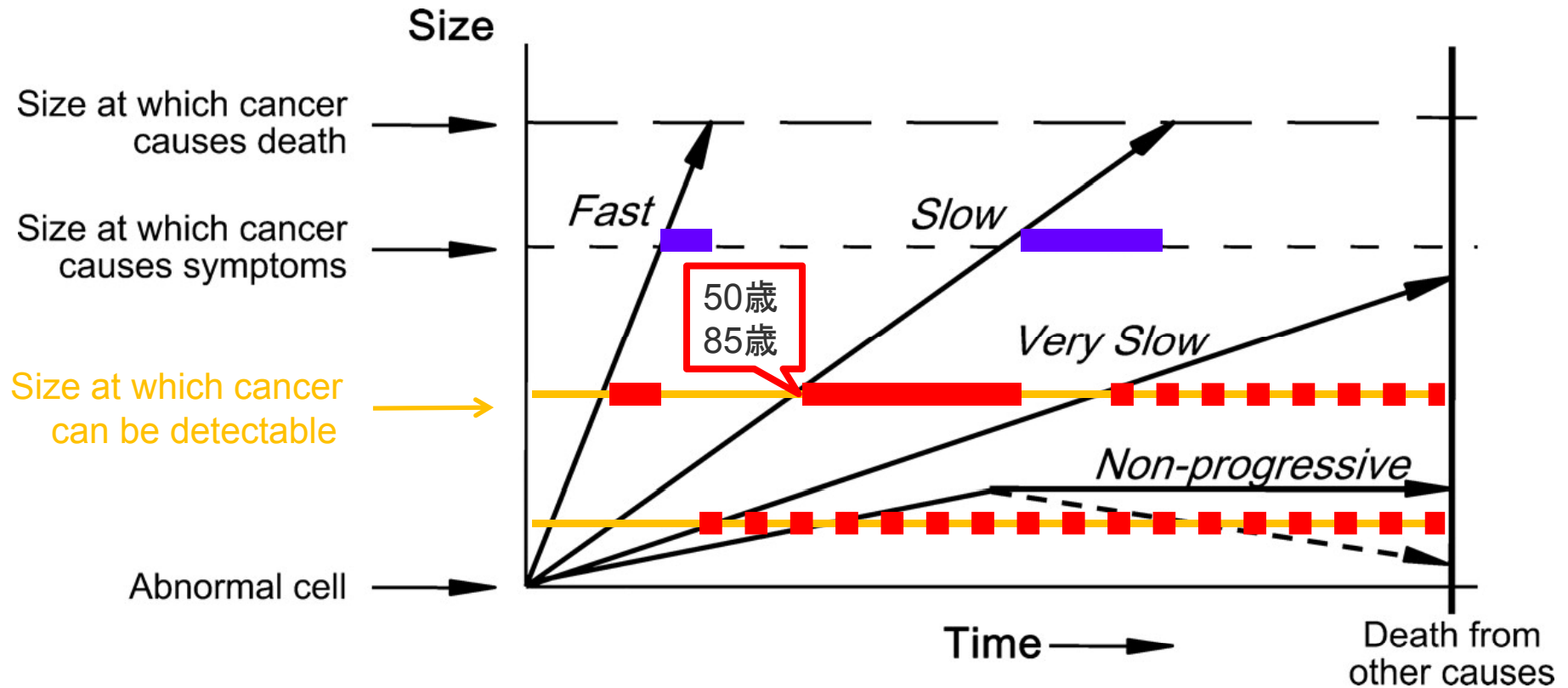
Table 1. Estimated size of the disease reservoir for three cancers, the lifetime risk of death or metastatic disease, and the probability of overdiagnosis where the entire disease reservoir detected

Cancer	Population	% With cancer (disease reservoir) (a)	Lifetime risk of death or metastatic disease* (b), %	Probability of overdiagnosis where entire disease reservoir detected† (c = [a - b]/a), %
Prostate	Men older than 60 y	30–70	4	87–94
Thyroid	Adults aged 50–70 y	36–100	0.1	99.7–99.9
Breast	Women aged 40–70 y	7–39	4	43–90

* The lifetime risk of death or metastatic disease was estimated by multiplying the lifetime risk of death reported by the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program (10) by 1.33, which more than accounts for the small proportion of patients diagnosed with metastatic disease who die from other causes (approximately 20%, 15%, and 10% of those with metastatic cancer of the prostate, thyroid, and breast cancer, respectively).

† This estimate is a lower-bound estimate because lethal and/or metastatic cancers do not always arise from prevalent cancers (those contained in the disease reservoir) but also from incident cancers (those not contained in the disease reservoir).

過剰診断の可能性：がん進展の多様性



がん検診の利益と不利益

利益

- がん死亡の回避(真陽性者の一部)
- がん患者のQOLの向上
- がん患者の医療費の削減
- 真陰性者の安心

検査結果	疾患あり	疾患なし
陽性	<u>真陽性</u>	<u>偽陽性</u>
陰性	<u>偽陰性</u>	<u>真陰性</u>

不利益

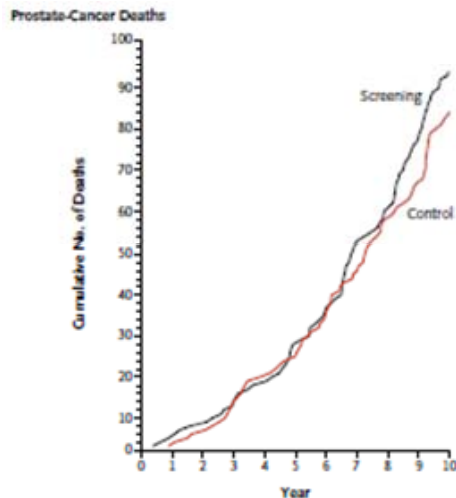
- 検診・精密検査による心身への侵襲、コスト、合併症
- 偽陽性者への不必要な検査・不安
- 偽陰性者の治療遅延
- 寿命に比べて臨床的に意味のないがんの診断・治療
(**過剰診断・過剰治療**)

欧米のランダム化比較試験 — PSAによる前立腺がん検診 —

PLCO (米国)

38,000 for annual PSA testing for 6 years
and DRE for 4 years
vs. 38,000 for usual care (PSA: 40-52%,
DRE: 41-46%)
(7-10 yrs follow-up)

Relative risk of diagnosis: **1.22** (1.16-1.29)
116 vs. 95 /10,000 person-years
Relative risk of death: **1.13** (0.75-1.70)
2.0 vs. 1.7 /10,000 person-years



Andriole GL, et al. N Engl J Med 2009;360:1310-9.

ERSPC (欧州)

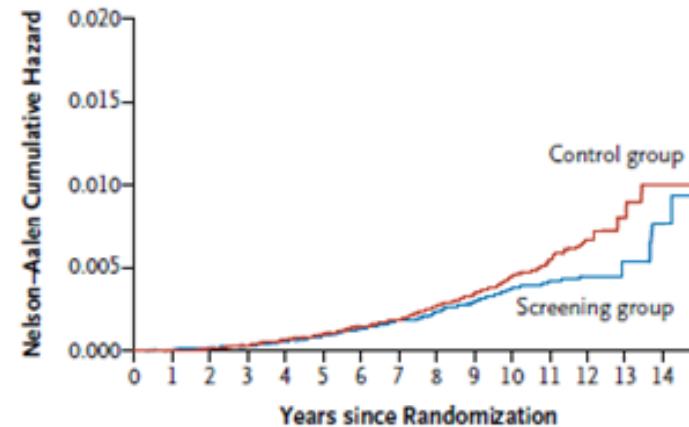
73,000 for PSA every 4 years
vs. 89,000 for no screening
(8.8 yrs follow-up)

Relative risk of diagnosis: **1.71**

Relative risk of death: **0.80** (0.65-0.98)

3.3 vs. 4.1/10,000 persons-years

*Positive PSA tests in screened group:
20,437 (16.2%) → 17,543 biopsies
→ 5,990 (8.2%) Ca (vs. 4,307 (4.8%) in control)



Schröder, FH, et al. N Engl J Med 2009;360:1320-8.

前立腺がん検診の利益と不利益

1,000 men aged 55 to 69 screened every 1 to 4 years for 10 years with a PSA test



1,000 men screened.

Of these:

100-120
get false-positive results that
may cause anxiety and lead to
biopsy
(Possible side effects of
biopsies include serious
infections, pain, and bleeding)

110
get a prostate cancer
diagnosis, and of these men:

- **at least 50**
will have treatment
complications, such as
infections, sexual
dysfunction, or bladder or
bowel control problems
- **4-5**
die from prostate cancer
(5 die among men who do
not get screened)
- **0-1**
death from prostate cancer
is avoided

Source:
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2012.

55～69歳の男性1000人
1～4年毎にPSA検診を10年間

100～120人が偽陽性
→不安と生検
(感染、苦痛、出血などの可能性)

110人が前立腺がん診断
・**少なくとも50人が治療合併症**
(感染、性機能不全、排尿・排便
障害など)
・**4～5人が前立腺がんによる死亡**
(検診を受けない集団では5人)

・**0～1人が検診による死亡を回避**

<http://www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin/112712/page12>



SCREENING OF INFANTS AND MORTALITY DUE TO NEUROBLASTOMA

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ABSTRACT

Background Neuroblastoma, the extracranial solid tumor that occurs in childhood, can be identified in the presence of catecholamines in the urine. The detection of catecholamines in the urine, it is unknown whether routine screening for neuroblastoma reduces mortality due to neuroblastoma.

Methods Through their parents, we offered urine screening for neuroblastoma at three weeks of age to all 476,654 children born in Quebec, Canada, during a five-year period from 1989, through April 30, 1994. The rate of death due to neuroblastoma was determined and compared with that of several unscreened control populations born during the same period.

Results Among children younger than eight years of age in the Quebec cohort, there were 22 deaths due to neuroblastoma; the cumulative (\pm SE) mortality rate due to neuroblastoma was 4.78 ± 1.14 per 100,000 children over a period of nine years. The standardized incidence ratios for death due to neuroblastoma for the Quebec cohort were 1.11 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.64 to 1.92) as compared with a control group in Ontario, Canada; 0.90 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.48 to 1.70) as compared with a control group in Minnesota; 1.40 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.81 to 2.41) as compared with a control group in Florida; and 0.96 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.56 to 1.66) as compared with a control group in the Greater Delaware Valley. The standardized mortality ratio for the Quebec cohort as compared with the rest of Canada was 1.39 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.85 to 2.30); the odds ratio for the comparison with a cohort born in Quebec before the screening program began was 0.98 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.54 to 1.77).

Conclusions Screening infants for neuroblastoma does not appear to reduce mortality due to this disease. (N Engl J Med 2002;346:1041-6.)

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Woods WG, et al. NEJM 2002;346:1041-6.

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ABSTRACT

Background Neuroblastoma is the second most common type of childhood tumor. It is not known whether screening for neuroblastoma at one year of age reduces the incidence of metastatic disease or mortality due to neuroblastoma.

Methods We offered urine screening for neuroblastoma at approximately one year of age to 2,581,188 children in 6 of 16 German states from 1995 to 2000. A total of 2,117,600 eligible children in the remaining states served as controls. We compared the two groups in terms of the incidence of disseminated disease and mortality from neuroblastoma.

Results A total of 1,475,773 children (61.2 percent of those who were born between July 1, 1994, and October 31, 1999) underwent screening. In this group, neuroblastoma was detected by screening in 149 children, of whom 3 have died. Fifty-five children who had negative screening tests were subsequently given a diagnosis of neuroblastoma; 14 of these children have died. The screened group and children in the control area had a similar incidence of stage 4 neuroblastoma (3.7 cases per 100,000 screened children [95 percent confidence interval, 2.7 to 4.7] and 3.9 cases per 100,000 controls [95 percent confidence interval, 2.7 to 4.7]).

Comparison of the screened group and children in the control area had a similar rate of death among children with neuroblastoma (1.3 deaths per 100,000 screened children [95 percent confidence interval, 0.7 to 1.7]) and among children in the control area (1.3 deaths per 100,000 controls [95 percent confidence interval, 0.7 to 1.7]). Comparison of the screened group and children in the control area had a similar incidence of overdiagnosis in the former group (7 cases per 100,000 children [95 percent confidence interval, 4.6 to 9.2]); the overdiagnosis of neuroblastoma by screening but who would not have been diagnosed and treated.

Conclusions The present findings do not support the usefulness of general screening for neuroblastoma at one year of age. (N Engl J Med 2002;346:1047-53.)

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Schilling FH, et al. NEJM 2002;346:1047-53.

カナダの研究：
新生児のスクリーニング
(3週と6カ月)は死亡率減少効果はなかった。
日本は再考すべき。

ドイツの研究：
スクリーニング(1歳)により
過剰診断をもたらすが、死亡率減少効果はなかった。
神経芽細胞腫のスクリーニングの有効性は疑問。

A Halt to Neuroblastoma Screening in Japan

TO THE EDITOR: Neuroblastoma is the most common form of malignant solid tumor during childhood. Japan is the only country in which mass screening for neuroblastoma has been adopted as a national policy, and the program has been conducted since 1984. In 2001, urine samples from 1,170,662 infants six months of age (90.4 percent of eligible infants of that age in Japan) were tested for homovanillic acid and vanilmandelic acid (metabolites of catecholamines produced by neuroblastoma) by high-performance liquid chromatography, and 180 cases of neuroblastoma were detected.

The April 4, 2002, issue of the *Journal* included reports of screening studies in Germany¹ and Canada.² The German study used high-performance liquid chromatography to screen infants one year of age, and the Canadian study used thin-layer chromatography, a less sensitive method, to screen infants three weeks and six months of age. Neither trial found that the screenings were associated with a reduction in the rate of death due to neuroblastoma,^{1,2} and both resulted in substantial overdiagnosis of cases of neuroblastoma that would not otherwise have become clinically evident.^{1,3} The findings of the two trials disagreed with those of descriptive and observational studies in Japan that had suggested a reduction in the rate of death due to neuroblastoma in association with the screening

of six-month-old infants by high-performance liquid chromatography.⁴

Because of these discrepancies, on May 28, 2003, the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare organized a special committee to reconsider the rationale for the current policy, with one of us serving as the chairman and the other as a member of the committee. After four meetings, the committee published a report on August 14, 2003.⁵ Concluding that there was sufficient evidence that the current method of screening led to overdiagnosis of neuroblastoma and that there was insufficient evidence that the program reduced the rate of death from the disease, the committee recommended against the continuation of screening in the report. Consequently, the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare decided to halt the program by the end of fiscal year 2003 (March 2004). The Japanese experience with neuroblastoma screening underscores the importance of rigorous evaluation of potential benefit and harm before a screening program is adopted as public policy.

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5. Report of the special committee on mass screening for neuroblastoma. (In Japanese.) (Accessed April 16, 2004, at <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/shingi/2003/08/s0814-2.html>.)

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スクリーニングは、神経芽細胞腫の過剰診断をもたらすという十分な証拠があり、事業によりその死亡率が減少するという証拠は不十分である。よって、検討会は、スクリーニングの休止を勧告した。

小児がんの一種である神経芽細胞腫を早期に発見し、できるだけ早い段階で適切な措置を講じることを目的として、生後6～7ヶ月の全ての乳児を対象に、尿によるマスキリーニングを行う事業（神経芽細胞腫検査事業）が昭和59年度以来実施されてきたところである。

近年、欧米において神経芽細胞腫マスキリーニングの有効性に関して疑問があるとの報告がなされ、日本においても本事業の実施が与える影響について検討する必要性が指摘された。このため、厚生労働省雇用均等・児童家庭局長が招集する検討会が開催され、神経芽細胞腫マスキリーニング検査の今後のあり方について検討を行った。

2 神経芽細胞腫検査事業の有効性の評価について

一般にマスキリーニングの評価においては、(1)死亡率減少効果があるか、(2)マスキリーニングによる不利益がないか、が最も重要である。

(3) 有効性の評価についてのまとめ

(死亡率の減少効果の有無について)

・現行の生後6ヶ月時に実施する神経芽細胞腫検査事業による死亡率減少効果の有無は、現在、**明確でない**。

(不利益について)

・現行の神経芽細胞腫検査事業によって発見される例の中には、相当程度、積極的治療を必要としない例が含まれていると考えられている。また、治療そのものによる負担の他、治療によって合併症を生じる場合があるなど、現在行われている生後6ヶ月時に実施する神経芽細胞腫検査事業によって**不利益を受ける場合があることは否定できない**。

→ **いったん休止することが適切**

Too much medicine campaign

The *BMJ's* Too Much Medicine campaign aims to highlight the threat to human health posed by overdiagnosis and the waste of resources on unnecessary care.



Sign up for your daily or weekly table of contents

BMJ Campaign

There is growing evidence that many people are overdiagnosed and overtreated, such as prostate cancer and thyroid cancer.

Through the campaign, the *BMJ's* editor in chief, Dr Godlee, will highlight the excess of unnecessary care in Australia, the UK and the US.

Dr Godlee says that the current excess of unnecessary care is a major public health problem.

“Making such a distinction won't only help patients, it will also help the NHS and the wider health system.”

Next steps

The *BMJ* will produce a theme issue in early 2014, featuring the best papers from the conference. The *BMJ* will also advance the campaign through its website and social media. The *BMJ* and the *Consumer Reports* journal will launch a series on how the expansion of disease definitions is

As part of the campaign the *BMJ* will produce a theme issue in early 2014, featuring the best papers from the conference.

The *BMJ* and the *Consumer Reports* journal will launch a series on how the expansion of disease definitions is

Thyroid cancer: zealous imaging has increased detection and treatment of low risk tumours (4637 views)

There is growing evidence that many people are overdiagnosed and overtreated for a wide range of conditions, such as prostate and thyroid cancers, asthma, and chronic kidney disease.