

Additional Efforts to Prevent Malignant Neoplasms in Japan with a Focus on the Statistics

The Editor,

Sir,

Measures to prevent malignant neoplasms must continue to be implemented in Japan. This study examined the ranking of malignant neoplasms as a cause of death, the mortality rate for malignant neoplasms (/100 000 population), and the percentage of deaths caused by malignant neoplasms (%) among males and females ages 10 to 39 years in five-year increments in Japan from 2004–2008, as reported to the vital statistics in the *Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics* (1).

During the period studied, malignant neoplasms ranked first or second as a cause of death among males ages 10–14 years, third among men ages 15–19 years, third or fourth among men ages 20–24, 25–29, or 30–34 years, and second among males ages 35–39 years. The mortality rate for malignant neoplasms was 2.0–2.6 among males ages 10–14 years, 3.1–3.6 among males ages 15–19 years, 3.6–4.4 among men ages 20–24 years, 5.1–5.7 among men ages 25–29 years, 8.2–9.0 among men ages 30–34 years and 15.0–17.4 among men ages 35–39 years. The percentage of deaths caused by malignant neoplasms was 16.9–22.0 among males ages 10–14 years, 8.4–9.7 among males ages 15–19 years, 6.0–7.1 among males ages 20–24 years, 7.5–8.6 among men ages 25–29 years, 10.2–11.4 among men ages 30–34 and 14.0–15.4 among men ages 35–39 years.

During the period studied, malignant neoplasms ranked first or second as a cause of death among females ages 10–14 years, first among females ages 35–39 years, second among women ages 25–29 years or 30–34 years and third among women ages 15–19 or 20–24 years. The mortality rate for malignant neoplasms was 1.4–2.0 among females ages 10–14 years, 2.0–2.7 among females ages 15–19 years, 2.7–3.5 among women ages 20–24 years, 4.6–5.8 among women ages 25–29 years, 10.1–12.3 among females ages 30–34 years and 21.1–24.7 among women ages 35–39 years. The percentage of deaths due to malignant neoplasms was 19.1–27.3 among females ages 10–14 years, 10.8–13.9 among females ages 15–19 years, 9.7–11.6 among women ages 20–24 years, 14.3–18.0 among women ages 25–29 years, 23.8–28.6 among women ages 30–34 years and 36.0–40.5 among women ages 35–39 years.

Additional measures to prevent malignant neoplasms in Japan are said to target the middle-aged and older

individuals in particular, but overall, the above results indicate the importance of additional measures to prevent malignant neoplasms targeting young men and women in their teens, twenties and thirties.

From: K Inoue¹, Y Fujita², T Iwamoto³, M Nishimura⁴, T Fukunaga⁵

¹Department of Public Health, Fujita Health University School of Medicine, Aichi 470-1192, Japan, ²Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, Teikyo University School of Medicine, Tokyo 173-8605, Japan, ³Iwamoto Clinic, Tokyo 145-0064, Japan, ⁴Kawasaki-shi Tama Public Health Center, Kanagawa 214-8570, Japan and ⁵Tokyo Medical Examiner's Office, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo 112-0012, Japan.

Correspondence: Dr K Inoue, Department of Public Health, Fujita Health University School of Medicine, 1-98, Dengakugakubo, Kutsukake-cho, Toyoake, Aichi 470-1192, Japan. E-mail: ke-inoue@fujita-hu.ac.jp

REFERENCE

1. *Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics. Health and Welfare Statistics Association. 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010; 53, 54, 55, 56, 57: 397–8, 403–4, 407–8, 415–6, 413–4. (in Japanese)*