

Lung Cancer Study 2011

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Does the Cancer Care Center at UVMC have a problem with late presentation in lung cancer patients?

INTRODUCTION

In the Ohio Cancer Facts & Figures 2010, Miami County stands out in red surrounded by blue and grey counties.¹ The red color indicates patients >70.4% late stage presentation for lung and bronchus cancer for 2003-2007. This is the worst category. Late stage meant “regional and distant” disease. There were 20 other counties in Ohio that were also red including Lucas County (Toledo). However two of our neighboring counties (Clark and Shelby) were light grey, representing <63.4% late stage. This is the best category. Please note that the four category range is spread over 7.0 percentage points

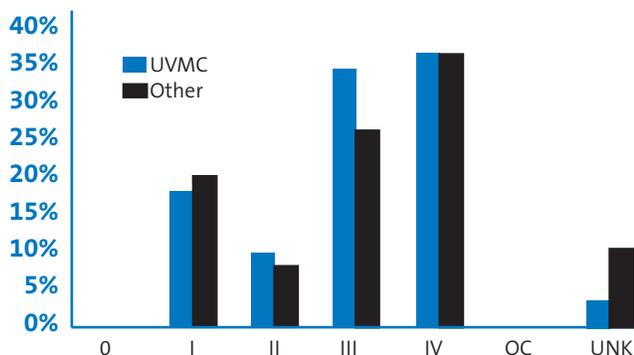
METHOD

I queried the NCDB comparison report for 2000-2008 and compared UVMC to community hospitals with respect to stage presentation.

RESULTS

The graphic displays the findings.

Stage of Lung, Bronchus - Non-Small Cell Carcinoma Cancer Diagnosed in 2000-2008
UVMC vs. Community Hospitals in All States
All Diagnosed Cases



DISCUSSION

The time period of the Ohio Cancer Facts & Figures 2010 (2007-2007) and the NCDB (2000-2008) are not identical, but overlap significantly. Not all patients in Miami County sought care at UVMC and not all patients cared for at UVMC are from Miami County, but again, there is significant overlap. “Late stage” meaning regional and distant disease does not mean Stage III and IV in every instance, but there is significant overlap here, too.

If we accept all the above overlap, we can see that UVMC (“My Facility”) has 26% Stage I & II verse 70% Stage III & IV. We have 3% of unknown stage. By comparison, community hospitals have 27% Stage I & II verse 62% Stage III & IV. They have 10% of unknown stage.

Seventy percent is very close to the >70.4% figure in the Facts & Figures publication. The difference is 8% between Stage III & IV at UVMC verses community hospitals could be made up in the larger unknown stage category in community hospitals, but this is speculative.

CONCLUSION

There does seem to be a higher percentage of late stage presentation at UVMC for lung cancer as reflected in both the Facts and Figures and the NCDB. Efforts should be made to measure more precisely where we are currently, then we can consider an intervention aimed at decreasing the percentage of late stage presentation. This would make a difference.

This study was presented to the Cancer Committee on December 7, 2011. It will be documented in the SAR for 2011.

¹American Cancer Society East Central Division, Ohio Department of Health, The Ohio State University. Ohio Cancer Facts & Figures 2010. Columbus, Ohio: American Cancer Society; 2010 page 48.