

Trends in esophageal cancer mortality in Lithuania, 2001-2020

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INTRODUCTION

- Over the last few decades, the incidence of esophageal cancer has increased dramatically in the Western world.
- According to GLOBOCAN 2018 data, esophageal cancer is the ninth most common cancer worldwide and the sixth most deadly.
- Esophageal cancer is characterized by high mortality, poor prognosis at diagnosis (5-year overall survival is only about 10%) and local variability.
- However, mortality trends by sex, age and place of residence in Lithuania have not been analyzed in detail so far.

METHODS

- A secondary data analysis was performed.
- Age-standardized data on esophageal cancer mortality (ICD-10 code C15) per 100 000 inhabitants in Lithuania during 2001-2020 were obtained from the Institute of Hygiene.
- Data assessed using Joinpoint regression program.
- The correlation between age and mortality was estimated with Spearman correlation by using SPSS Statistics 25.0

CONCLUSIONS

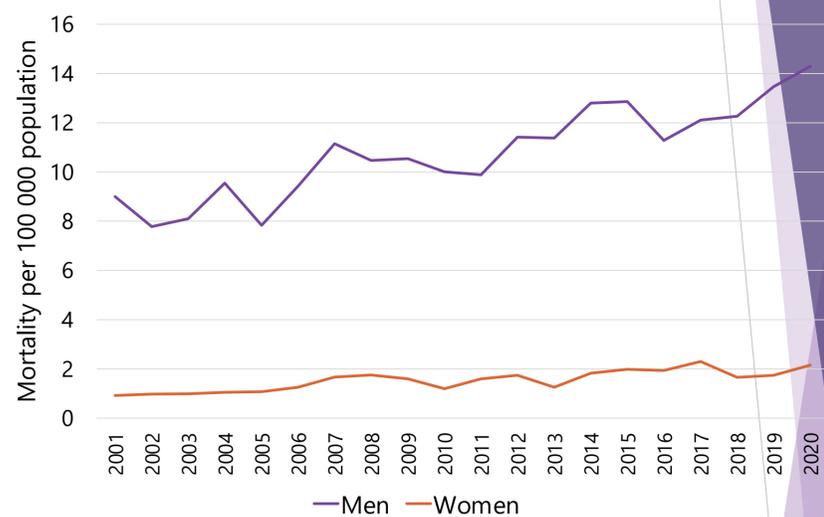
The results show that mortality from esophageal cancer remains much higher in men than in women. Also, it was observed, that higher mortality was strongly correlated with older age and mortality is steadily increasing in most districts of Lithuania.

AIM

To assess the mortality from esophageal cancer by sex, age and the place of residence in Lithuania during 2001-2020.

RESULTS

The mortality from esophageal cancer in men and women during 2001-2020



- Over the entire study period, men had a higher mortality rate than women. However, mortality rates are increasing in both sexes, with an average increase of 2.7% per year ($p < 0.001$), and 4.1% per year ($p < 0.001$) in women.
- The highest mortality rate for men was in the 65-84 age group (average 16.3/100 000), while the highest mortality rate for women was in the 85+ age group (average 6.7/100 000).
- The study showed that older age was positively correlated with higher mortality ($\rho = 0.9$; $p = 0.037$).
- In 2020, the highest mortality rates for esophageal cancer were in Tauragė, Telšiai and Marijampolė districts, and the lowest in Vilnius, Panevėžys and Alytus districts.
- The highest increase in mortality was observed in Tauragė (7.85% p.a.), Telšiai (5.04% p.a.) and Marijampolė (4.53% p.a.), $p < 0.001$, the growth was slightly lower in Klaipėda, Kaunas, Šiauliai and Panevėžys ($p < 0.001$), while no significant changes were observed in Vilnius, Alytus and Utena, $p > 0.05$.