
Patient and Tumor Characteristics
The Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) developed this monograph to examine cancer survival by patient and tumor characteristics for more than 1.6 million adult cancers diagnosed during the period 1988-2001. The patient characteristics include age, race, and sex; tumor characteristics include subsite, size and extension of the tumor, lymph nodes positive, distant metastases, and histologic type. The report uses survival data from the SEER Program, currently the only source of statistics on cancer survival by stage in the United States. Each chapter covers a distinct anatomical site and associated histologies. The descriptive analyses on cancer survival rates presented by this monograph will inform health professionals, especially those who are concerned about cancer prognosis.

To view, print, or order a copy of this monograph, visit http://seer.cancer.gov/publications/survival.

SAMPLE RESULTS

- Within each cancer site, survival rates may vary substantially, depending on patient demographic and tumor characteristics. For example, gallbladder cancer has an overall 5-year relative survival rate of 15%; however, when looking at gallbladder cancer by tumor grade, 5-year relative survival rates range between 5% and 35%.
- There are notable differences in 5-year relative survival by stage; the earlier the stage at diagnosis, the more favorable the 5-year relative survival.
- Among the 10 most common cancer sites, prostate has one of the highest 10-year relative survival rates, whereas lung has one of the lowest 10-year relative survival rates.