

# Liposarcoma: incidence and survival rates in England

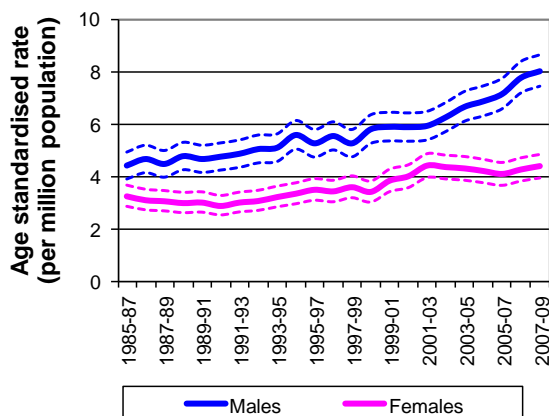
## Incidence Rates

Liposarcomas account for approximately 10% of all soft tissue sarcomas diagnosed in England in the last 25 years. Liposarcomas arise from fat cells and can occur anywhere in the body. There are 6 different sub-types; the 4 most common are liposarcoma Not Otherwise Specified (NOS), well-differentiated liposarcoma, pleomorphic liposarcoma and myxoid liposarcoma. There were 6,370 liposarcomas diagnosed in England between 1985 and 2009. The age-standardised incidence rate was 6.2 cases per million population in 2007-2009 (Figure 1). Incidence rates in males have increased significantly over time, and in 2007-2009 incidence rates in males were twice as high as in females. Sub-type incidence rates varied between 2.1 per million (liposarcoma NOS) and 1.1 per million (pleomorphic and myxoid liposarcoma) (Figure 2).

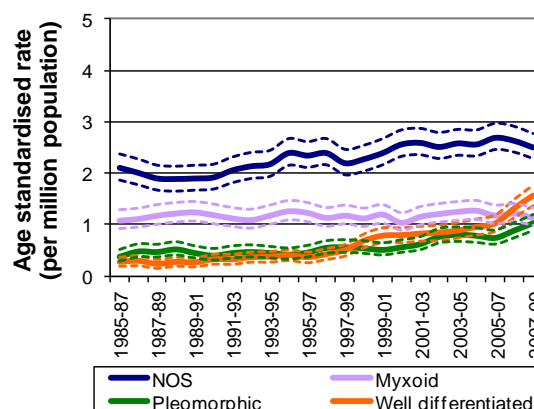
### KEY MESSAGES:

- Liposarcomas are one of the more common variants of soft tissue sarcoma.
- In 2007-2009 there were 6.2 cases diagnosed per million population.
- Incidence rates in males are twice as high as those in females.
- Five-year relative survival for cases diagnosed between 1985 and 2004 was 77%.

**Figure 1: Liposarcoma 3-year rolling age standardised incidence rates in each sex (England, 1985-2009)**

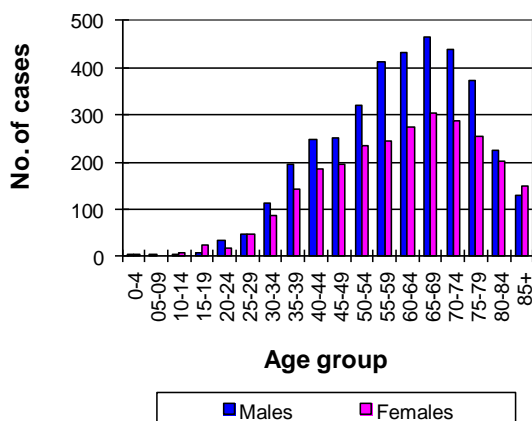


**Figure 2: Liposarcoma 3-year rolling age standardised incidence rates, for the 4 most common sub-types (England, 1985-2009)**

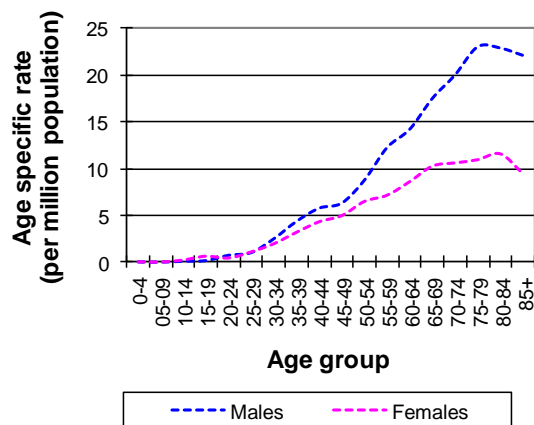


Liposarcoma age specific incidence rates increase with age in both sexes before peaking in 75-85 year olds and reducing somewhat in the oldest age group. Liposarcomas in children are exceptionally rare. Male age specific incidence rates increase from the age of 55 years at a greater degree than those observed in females, with male rates in the older age group double those of female rates.

**Figure 3: Number of liposarcomas diagnosed in each age group and sex (England, 1985-2009)**



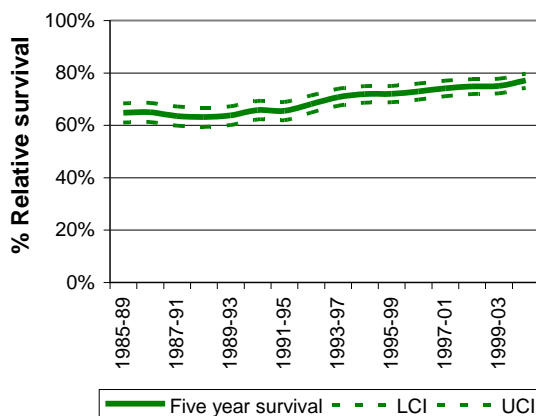
**Figure 4: Liposarcoma age specific incidence rates (England, 1985-2009)**



## Survival Rates

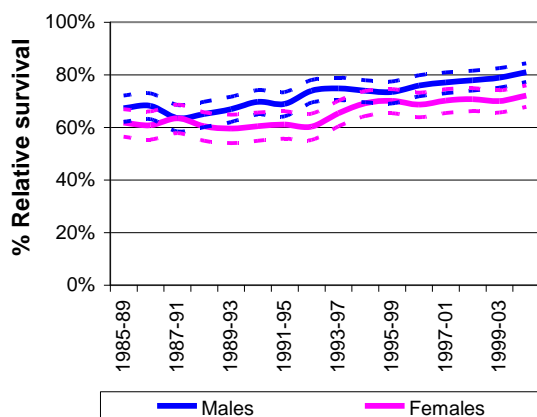
The 5-year relative survival for liposarcomas diagnosed in England between 1985 and 2004 was 81% for males and 72% for females. Between 1985 and 2004 the overall 5-year relative survival rate for liposarcomas has increased from 65% to 77% (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Five-year relative survival rates of liposarcoma England, 1985-2004**

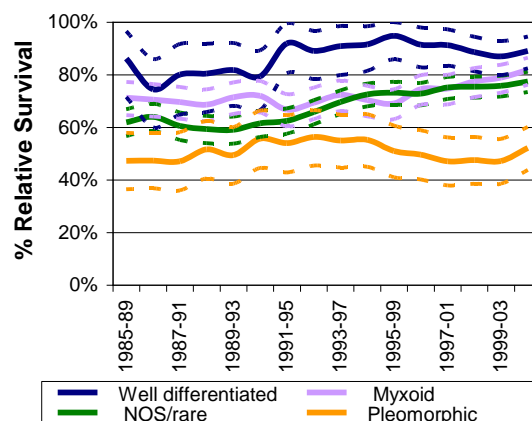


Between 1985 and 2004 5-year relative survival increased in both males and females (Figure 6). Well differentiated liposarcomas had the best and pleomorphic liposarcomas the worst 5-year relative survival. Only the 5-year relative survival for the liposarcoma NOS sub-type, increased significantly, between 1985 and 2004; from 62% to 77% (Figure 7).

**Figure 6: Liposarcoma 5-year relative survival rates by sex (5 year rolling) (England, 1985-2004)**



**Figure 7: Liposarcoma 5-year relative survival rates for all cancer sites (5 year rolling) (England, 1985-2004)**



FIND OUT MORE:

### West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit

WMCIU is the National Cancer Intelligence Network lead cancer registry for sarcomas.

<http://www.wmpho.org.uk/wmciu>

The NCIN is a UK-wide initiative, working closely with cancer services in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), to drive improvements in standards of cancer care and clinical outcomes by improving and using the information it collects for analysis, publication and research. In England, the NCIN is part of the National Cancer Programme. The National Cancer Intelligence Network will be part of Public Health England from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.