

## Derivation of a Charlson co-morbidity index from routine HES data

C Gildea, S McPhail, D Greenberg, G Price, M Francis, CS Thomson, J Poole



## Overview

- “Why”s and “how”s of co-morbidity
- Computing co-morbidity
- What do we find?
- What might that tell us?
- Where we go next

## Q. Why is co-morbidity information useful?



A. So we can better understand:

- Outcomes
- Treatment decisions
- Specific interactions between particular cancers and co-morbidities

... which may allow us to:

- Improve outcomes
- Assist treatment decisions
- Deliver new actionable intelligence to clinicians

## How do we measure co-morbidity?



- Dozens of methods/variations
- Some evidence suggests exact scheme doesn't matter 'too much'\*
- Basic plan:
  1. Look at patient records (medical notes, HES records, etc)
  2. Score the conditions we find there by some method
  3. Add up scores in some way
  4. Place the patient on a co-morbidity scale

\* NCIN workshop on co-morbidity data collection (October 2009) <http://www.ncin.org.uk/view?rid=119>

## Clinically-led vs routine data collection



Gold standard quality

Hard/expensive to collect



We already have the data:  
At national level  
Going back 15 years  
Relies on HES clinical coding  
We need a process to compute it

## Clinically-led vs routine data collection



Gold standard quality

Hard/expensive to collect



We already have the data:  
At national level  
Going back 15 years  
Relies on HES clinical coding  
We need a process to compute it

ACE-27

Charlson Index

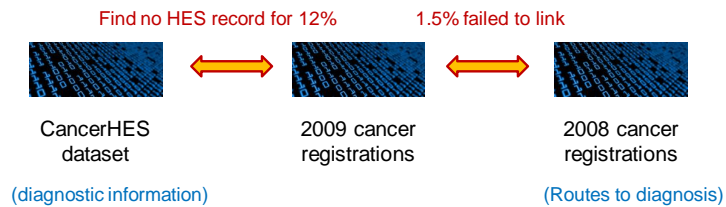
## Computing co-morbidity



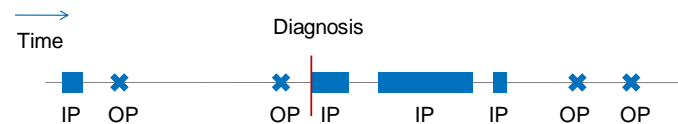
## Data linking



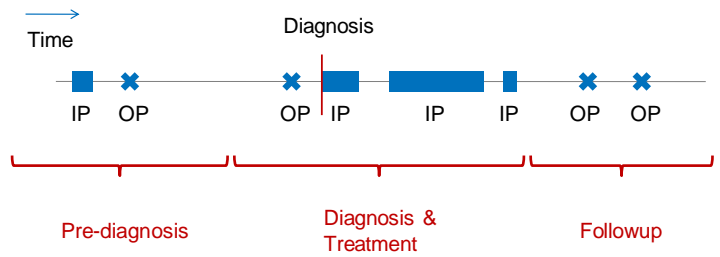
## Data linking



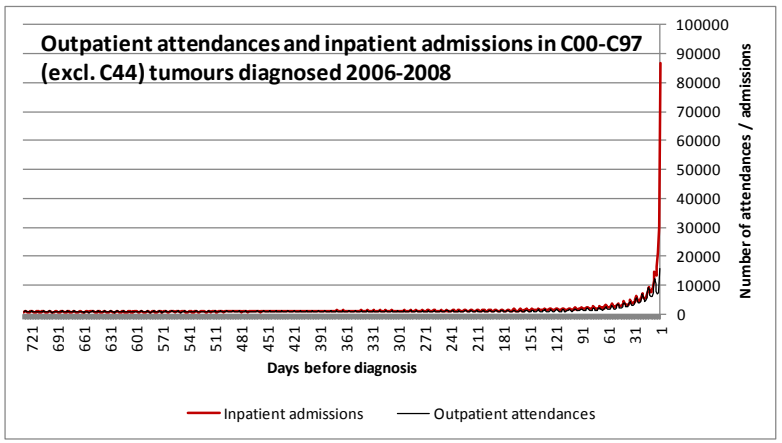
## Computing co-morbidity



# Computing co-morbidity



# Pre-diagnostic episode volume





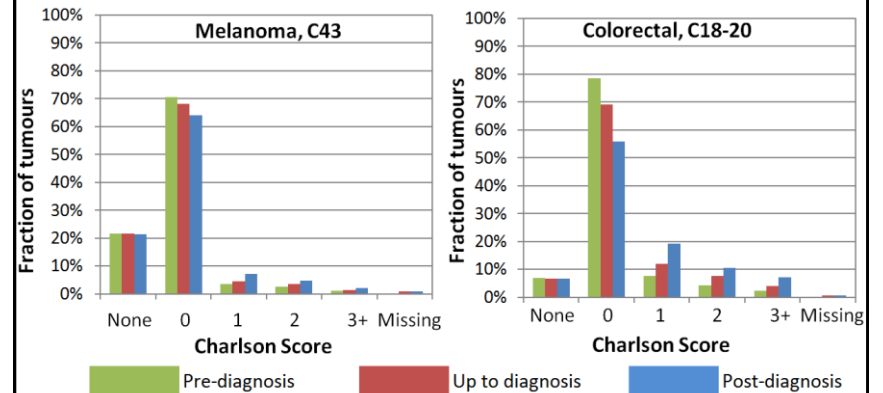


## What do we find?

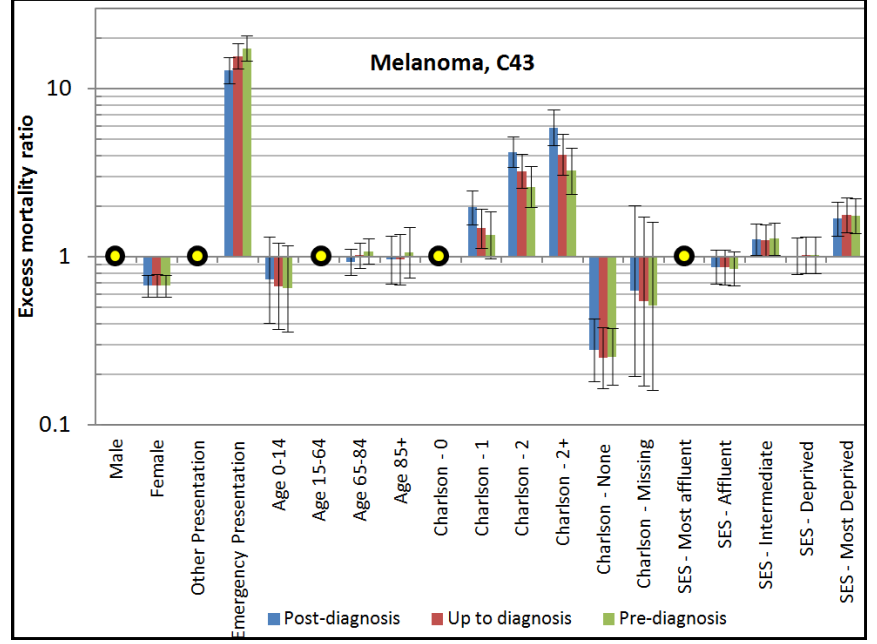
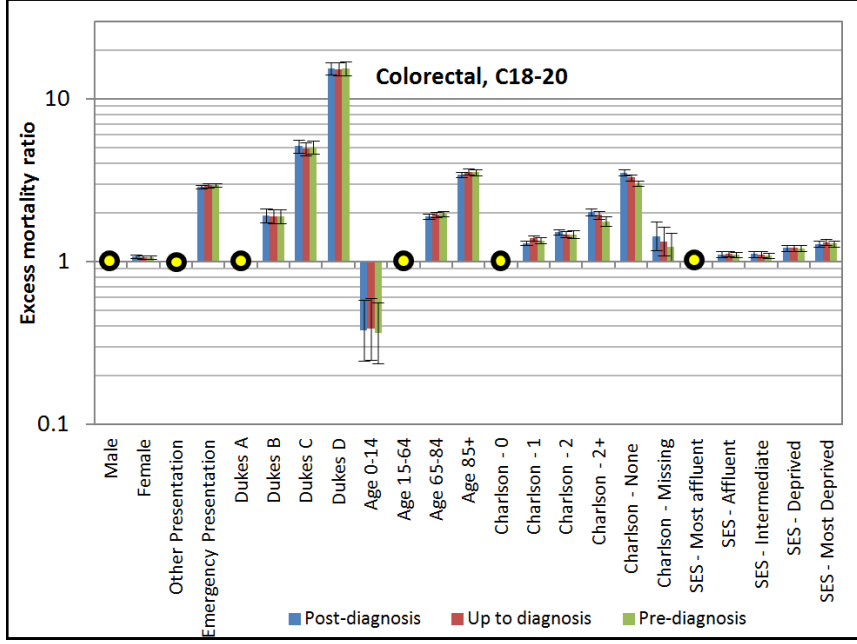


1. Look at how the period chosen changes recorded co-morbidity
2. Look at how co-morbidity influences 1-year mortality

## What do we find?







## Conclusions



- Using routinely collected data seems practical
- It shows a clear influence on outcomes
- Period not that important – but best not to include diagnosis & treatment
- We can suspect multiple mechanisms behind missing HES records

## Still to do...



- Expand to “BigHES”
- Explore missing data further
- Build process into CAS system to make co-morbidity routinely available to PHE/ SSCRGs
- Compare/ calibrate routine data co-morbidity with clinician led co-morbidity



national cancer  
intelligence network

*Using information to improve quality & choice*

[www.ncin.org.uk](http://www.ncin.org.uk)