Socio-economic differences in survival persist in Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in the West of Scotland.

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Aim
To investigate the influence of deprivation on relative survival following a diagnosis of NHL.

Introduction
Previous studies from the 1990s reported differences in survival following diagnosis of Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NHL) by deprivation in both Scotland and elsewhere [1]. This study utilises more recent data to investigate whether or not these differences persist.

Results
The 5-year relative survival was 61.9% (95%CI 57.4, 66.2) in males and 65.7% (95%CI 61.1, 70.0) in females. Both these figures were higher than reported in previous studies[1,3]. Depredation gaps still exist at both 1 and 5 years. In males at 1 year the RS was 73.1% in the most deprived group compared with 78.7% in the most affluent. By 5 years the gap had widened (RS 59.0% & 68.5% respectively). In females at 1 year the most deprived had RS 75.3% compared with 77.5% in the most affluent. By 5 years the gap had again widened (RS 61.4% & 69.6% respectively). The deprivation gaps are shown in Figure 2.

Conclusion
The deprivation gap remains in both males and females and increases with time from diagnosis.

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Method
Data from all cases of NHL diagnosed between 2004 and 2007 in people resident in the 5 highlighted Health Boards (population 2.2 million) were provided by the haematology-oncology managed clinical network. These data were subsequently enhanced by linkage to cancer registry and SIMD2006 deprivation group based on postcode of residence. Relative survival (RS) is the ratio of the observed survival in the NHL cases to that expected from normal background mortality due to age, gender, geographical area, calendar period and deprivation. Analyses was carried out using the STRS procedure in STATA v11.2 [2] to estimate relative survival at 1 and 5 years.

Table 1. Study population & RS at 1 & 5 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deprivation</th>
<th>Year Diagnosis 2004</th>
<th>Year Diagnosis 2005</th>
<th>Year Diagnosis 2006</th>
<th>Year Diagnosis 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RS 5 Year</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS 1 Year</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selected References

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