Malignant melanoma: incidence, mortality and survival rates in the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and England

May 2012

This factsheet presents data for ICD-10 C43 “Malignant melanoma of skin”. The latest available incidence, mortality and survival data have been used.

Incidence rates

The 3-year average age-standardised incidence rate of malignant melanoma in the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA) for males and females followed the same trend as the rate for England: an increase in incidence over the last 20 years. In 2007–09, the 3-year average age-standardised incidence rate of malignant melanoma for males was 18.0 (South East SHA) and 15.8 (England) per 100,000 population and for females the rate was 19.1 (South East SHA) and 16.3 (England) per 100,000 population. The age-standardised incidence rate was lower for males than for females to 1989–91, but in recent years was similar.

Figure 1: Malignant melanoma – 3-year average age-standardised incidence rates for males, 1985–2009

Source: UK Cancer Intelligence Service (UKCIS)
Mortality rates

The 3-year average age-standardised mortality rate from malignant melanoma in the South East Coast SHA for males and females followed the same trend as the rate for England over the last 20 years: for males the rate increased and for females it stayed constant despite some fluctuations in the SHA rates. The South East Coast SHA mortality rate was generally higher than the England rate. In 2008–10 the 3-year average age-standardised mortality rate from malignant melanoma for males was 4.0 (South East Coast SHA) and 3.2 (England) per 100,000 population, and for females the rate was 2.7 (South East Coast SHA) and 2.1 (England) per 100,000 population. From 1991–93, the age-standardised mortality rate was higher for males than females.

Figure 3: Malignant melanoma – 3-year average age-standardised mortality rates for males, 1985–2010

Source: UK Cancer Intelligence Service (UKCIS)
Survival rates

Five-year survival rates from malignant melanoma were lower in South East Coast SHA than England for both males and females diagnosed in 2003–05. The survival rate for males was 79.9% in the South East Coast SHA and 83.0% in England, while for females the rates were 87.3% in the South East Coast SHA and 91.6% in England. Comparing survival for people diagnosed in 1985–87 and 2003–05, relative survival increased by 10.9% for males and by 6.6% for females in the South East Coast SHA.

Figure 5: Malignant melanoma – 5-year relative survival rates for males diagnosed in 1985–2005, 3-year average
Figure 6: Malignant melanoma – 5-year relative survival rates for females diagnosed in 1985–2005, 3-year average

Source: UK Cancer Intelligence Service (UKCIS)