



Be Clear on Cancer: Third national lung campaign, 2014

Caveats: This summary presents the results of the metric on emergency presentations. This is one of a series of metric summaries that will be produced for this campaign, each focusing on a different metric. A comprehensive interpretation about the campaign is not included here as this requires a full evaluation of all the metrics. The full evaluation will be part of the final campaign report which will be published in due course. These metrics should not be considered in isolation.

Emergency Presentations

The campaign

The third national lung campaign ran from 10 March 2014 to 30 April 2014 in England.

The campaign's key message was:

- 'Been coughing for three weeks? Tell your doctor.'

Metric: Proxy for Emergency Presentations

The Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) derived emergency presentation metric is calculated from inpatient data and uses the methodology set out in the cancer outcomes metric specification.¹ It measures the proportion of persons diagnosed with lung cancer who first presented as an emergency.

Data was extracted on 19 October 2016 for persons admitted in 2013 and 2014, resident in England with a primary diagnosis of lung cancer (ICD-10 C33-34). Numbers do not include persons diagnosed via other routes, for example outpatient or general practice settings.

For each month, the proportion was calculated as the number of first inpatient admissions of persons with lung cancer presenting through an emergency route, divided by the total number of first inpatient admissions with lung cancer, multiplied by 100. Binomial confidence intervals were calculated using the Wilson score method. Results for the campaign year (2014) were compared with the previous year (2013).

Key messages

Based on the proxy measure, there were no significant differences in the proportions of lung cancers diagnosed via emergency presentation in England for the campaign year (2014) compared to 2013.

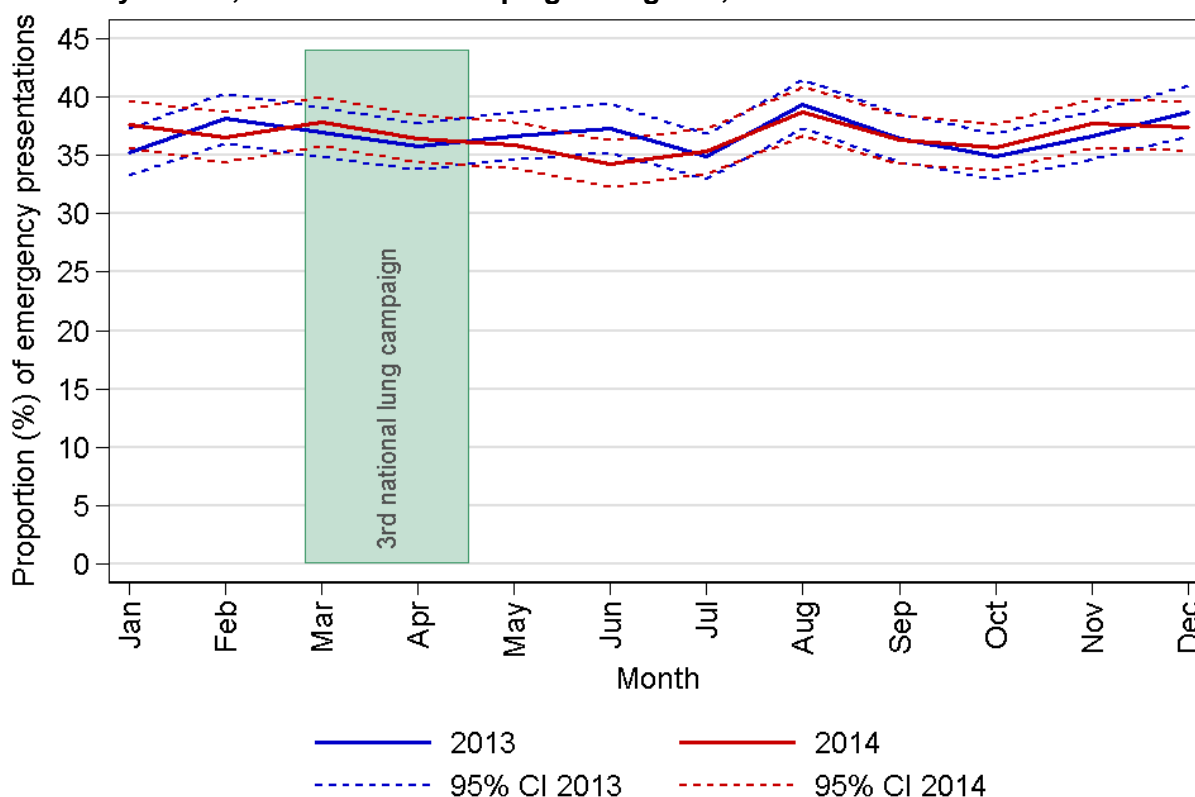
¹ Public Health England. Indicator Specification: Proportion of cancer admissions diagnosed for the first time via emergency presentation. 2015.

Results

There were 25,534 persons admitted with lung cancer in 2013 and 9,369 were diagnosed through emergency presentation. In 2014, there were 25,698 and 9,408 respectively.

There were no significant differences in the proportions of lung cancers diagnosed via emergency presentation in England in 2014 compared to 2013. The proportions of patients with lung cancer diagnosed via emergency presentation during the third national lung campaign period were 38% in March 2014 and 36% in April 2014 compared to 37% and 36% for the same months in 2013 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of emergency presentations and 95% confidence intervals for lung cancer by month, third national campaign - England, 2013-2014



3rd national lung campaign 10 Mar - 30 Apr 2014

Source: NCRAS Cancer Analysis System & the PHE Admitted Patient Care HES database

Conclusions

There were no significant differences in the proportions of patients with lung cancer diagnosed via emergency presentation for the campaign year 2014 compared to 2013.

Other metrics being evaluated include the Cancer Waiting Times referrals, conversion and detection rate, numbers of cancers diagnosed, stage at diagnosis and one-year survival. A full evaluation report will be published combining the results from all of the metrics in the coming months.

Considerations

In general, cancer incidence is increasing which may have an impact on trends over time for this and other metrics, and so the results must be considered with these underlying trends in mind.

Where the results are statistically significant there is some evidence for an impact of the campaign, although underlying trends and other external factors (eg other awareness activities, changing referral guidance) may also affect the results.

Campaigns are more likely to have a greater impact on metrics relating to patient behaviour (eg symptom awareness and GP attendance with relevant symptoms) and use of the healthcare system (eg urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer), compared to disease metrics (eg incidence, stage at diagnosis, and survival).

Find out more about Be Clear on Cancer at:

www.ncin.org.uk/be_clear_on_cancer

www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer/