Session 2: Socioeconomic deprivation and cancer

16:40 - THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION ON CANCER SURVIVAL IN ENGLAND

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Objectives
In England, cancer survival varies with socio-economic deprivation. We analysed avoidable deaths in relation to socio-economic deprivation for 14 common cancers.

Methods
Data on individuals diagnosed with any of the 14 most common types of cancer in England between 1999 and 2007 were extracted from the National Cancer Repository Dataset and analysed for survival in 2004-2007. Death-certificate-only cancer registrations and cases with a survival time of zero days were excluded. Patients were assigned to a socio-economic deprivation quintile based on the Income Domain of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Avoidable deaths were calculated as the difference between the observed and corresponding expected number of deaths based on deprivation quintile-specific life tables.

Results
A total of 1,551,164 cases were included in the analyses. For all cancers, survival was higher in the most affluent group compared to the most deprived group. For the majority of the cancers, the greatest differences in survival between socio-economic groups were observed in the first month of follow-up. If all socio-economic groups experienced survival similar to that of the most affluent group, the proportion of avoidable deaths in the first month ranged from 0% in uterine cancer to 38% in melanoma, with an inter-quartile range of 17% to 26%. In absolute terms, the greatest numbers of avoidable deaths per annum over a five-year follow-up period were observed for colorectal (694), breast (494), prostate (334) and lung cancer (330).

Conclusions
In general, socio-economic deprivation gives rise to survival inequality among all the studied cancers and is most pronounced in short-term follow-up. This suggests that late presentation is a driving factor behind the survival inequality.