Cancer treatment delay statistics for six major types of cancer in the state of Missouri

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1. Background

- The Missouri Cancer Registry (MCR) collects population-based cancer incidence and first-course treatment data on Missouri residents diagnosed with reportable malignant neoplasms (192.650-192.657 RSMo).
- To monitor access to cancer treatment, the Missouri Comprehensive Cancer Control Program used the MCR data to measure cancer treatment delay.

2. Purpose

- To provide statistics on the delay of cancer treatment for Missourians diagnosed with six major types of cancer.

3a. Methods: Selection criteria

- Included cases:
  - Missouri resident at diagnosis,
  - Diagnosed 2010—2013,
  - Malignant (except Urinary Bladder includes in situ), and
  - One of the following types of cancer:
    - Urinary Bladder,
    - Melanoma of the Skin,
    - Colon,
    - Female Breast,
    - Cervix Uteri, or
    - Lung & Bronchus.
- Excluded cases:
  - Unknown treatment status according to “Rx Summ--Treatment Status”;
  - Type of Reporting Source = nursing home, autopsy, or death certificate only;
  - Unknown Date 1st Course Treatment; or
  - Unknown month or day of diagnosis.

3b. Methods: Outcomes

- Cases were classified as “treated” if:
  - Rx Summ--Treatment Status = treatment given; and
  - Date of 1st Course Treatment equal to at least one of:
    - The date of Surgery, Radiation, Systemic, Other, Chemo, Hormone, or BRM; and
    - Earliest of the treatment modalities was given (i.e., Reason For No Surgery = “Surgery performed”), except Other-Experimental/Double Blind/Unproven was counted as “None”.

4. Results

- Of those who started treatment, generally >90% started within 60 days with the exception of Lung & Bronchus (in mid 80s).
- The distribution of the treatment delay varies greatly by the type of cancer.

4.1. Percentiles of delay

5. Discussion

- This study provides population-based data on the delay to treatment for Missourians diagnosed with one of six types of cancer.
- Delays may play an important role in outcomes and indicate the ease/difficulty of accessing health care in Missouri.
- Future directions include looking at disparities in delay.

6. Contact

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* Percentages of treated cases with zero delay were:
  - Urinary Bladder, 56% (Skin Melanoma), 29% (Colon), 10% (Female Breast), 22% (Cervical), and 6% (Lung & Bronchus).

**Not applicable**