Trends of cancer survival in children and adolescents in the province of Granada in the period 1985-2013

María-José Sánchez1,2,3, Miguel Rodríguez-Barranco1,2,3, Daniel Redondo-Sánchez1,2,3, Miguel-Ángel Luque-Fernández1,2,3, David López1,2,3, Eloisa Bayo4

1. Granada Cancer Registry, Andalusian School of Public Health, Granada, Spain; 2. Instituto de Investigación Bisanoratia ibs.GRANADA, University of Granada, Spain; 3. CIBER of Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain. 4. Radiation Oncology and Radiobiology Unit. University Hospital Virgen Macarena, Sevilla, Spain

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Although cancer in children and adolescents is rare, it is a leading cause of death by disease in children in Spain with great social and emotional repercussion. Cancer survival in this population is generally high and it is expected to increase as treatments progress. The objective was to analyze the evolution of 5-year survival in children and adolescents in the province of Granada diagnosed for the first time with cancer in the period 1985-2013.

METHODOLOGY

From the information of the Granada Cancer Registry, all incident cancer cases from 0 to 19 years diagnosed in the period 1985-2013 were studied. The date of follow-up was updated to December 31st 2016.

The observed 5-years survival was calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method along five-year periods of the year of incidence from 1985 to 2013. For each period and for each stratum, the probability of surviving 5 years from the diagnosis was estimated, together with its 95% confidence intervals (95% CI).

RESULTS

In the period 1985-2013, 627 cases of childhood cancer and 330 cases of cancer in adolescents were diagnosed in Granada.

The 5-year survival among the children diagnosed with a cancer had an increasing trend to reach 84.7% (95% CI: 75.9-90.5) in the most recent period (2010-2013), almost 20 points more than in the period 1985-1989 (65.8%). The evolution was similar in boys and girls. By age groups, children 0-4 years old had a 5-year survival lower (80%) compared to the 5-9 years (88.9%) and 10-14 years (88.5%) groups in the period 2010-2013. Among adolescents, the 5-year survival in 2010-2013 was 87.3% (95% CI: 72.1-87.3), 20 points higher than survival in 1985-1989. The boys from 15 to 19 years had a greater evolution (27 percentage points) than the girls (11 points).

CONCLUSIONS

Cancer survival in children and adolescents of the province of Granada has shown a remarkable improvement in the last decades, reaching values around 85% at 5 years from the diagnosis. These values are slightly higher than those estimated for European countries, which are around 80%. In spite of the advances in the last decades, efforts must be remained to continue improving the life expectancy in this population.