

Statistics relevant to brain tumours

(Note that the cancer registries in Australia and the AIHW do not incorporate statistics for so-called “benign” brain tumours, only the primary, malignant brain tumours. This is a mistaken policy which needs to be changed because some “benign” brain tumours can be lethal. The more accurate description to use is “non-malignant”.)

1. The estimated incidence of primary malignant brain tumours in 2014 was 1060 (males) and 740 (females). Total = 1,800 (page 94). They are the 15th most common cancer diagnosed in males, and the 16th in females (page xii).
2. There was a slight increase in the incidence between 1982 and 2014 (page 21).
3. Patients with a principal diagnosis of a primary brain tumour were relatively heavy users of palliative care in hospitals with 1,187 hospitalisations during 2012-2013 (page 31).
4. The change in survival rates for those with a brain tumour between 1982-86 and 2007-2011 was so minor that it was not even statistically significant (page 39).
5. Brain tumours were the 10th most common estimated cause of death from cancer for females in 2014 (page 49). For both males and females they showed a slight increase in mortality from 5.0 to 5.1 per 100,000 between 1982 and 2014 (page 52). 1330 patients are estimated to die in 2014 (790 males, 540 females) (Page 94).
6. In the overall age group 0-24 leukaemia was the estimated most commonly diagnosed cancer (315 cases), followed by lymphoma (255) and brain tumours (135). (Note: BTAA has obtained more refined data which indicates the relatively higher incidence for brain tumours in the younger age groups.)
7. In the 0-24 age group brain tumours and leukaemia, each with 40 cases in 2012, were the most common cancer-related deaths. For males brain tumours vie with leukaemia (25 deaths each) for the most common cause but for females in this age group brain tumours are the leading cause.
8. The median age for diagnosis for both males and females in 2011 was 58 years and 7 months (Page 94)
9. An estimated 4,176 persons in 2009 who had been diagnosed with a malignant primary brain tumour were alive five years after diagnosis (Page 95).

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