Comparison of Time Trends in Lip, Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer Mortality (1990–2006) Between Countries Based on the WHO Mortality Database

Mortality data, abstracted from the World Health Organization (WHO) database, are available for various countries. We used lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer mortality (ICD-10: C00–C14) in 11 countries during the period 1990–2006. These countries were Japan, China (Hong Kong) and the Republic of Korea (Asian countries); the United States of America (USA); Australia; the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Spain, France and Germany (European countries). For the USA, Spain and France, data were available only for 1990–2005; and for Australia and Italy, for 1990–2003. The world population was used for age standardization.

Age-standardized rates for lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer mortality (ICD-10: C00–C14) in the 11 selected countries between 1990 and 2006 are shown for males (Fig. 1) and for females (Fig. 2).

Lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer mortality rates for males were from 3 to 10 times higher than for females (note that Figs 1 and 2 use different vertical scales). For both males and females, age-standardized rates in China (Hong Kong) were high and have decreased apparently over the period. The mortality rates in the USA and Australia showed a decreasing trend throughout the observation period.

Among males, in Europe, the mortality rate in France was the highest of all countries studied in the 1990s showing a strong decreasing trend and falling below the rate in the Russian Federation from the year 2000. The rates in Spain and Germany were similar, while the UK showed the lowest rates. Mortality rates in the USA, Australia and Asian countries except China (Hong Kong) were at the same level as the rate in the UK, which showed the lowest rate in Europe throughout the observation period.

Among females, few differences in mortality rates were observed for all the countries studied with the exception of China (Hong Kong).
Note: Mortality data, abstracted from the World Health Organization mortality database, were downloaded from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) CANCER Mondial Statistical Information System (http://www-dep.iarc.fr/). Data were tabulated by the authors of this article. Responsibility for this presentation and interpretation lies with the authors of this article.

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