



## Trends in survival for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia in England: 2001-2010.

### National Cancer Intelligence Network Data Briefing

NCIN has produced a detailed report covering incidence, mortality and survival; the focus of this briefing is survival.

Detailed report: <http://www.ncin.org.uk/view?rid=2818>

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) is predominantly a disease of the elderly, with a higher age-standardised incidence in males.

CLL is a relatively indolent cancer for which histopathology laboratories will not necessarily be involved in diagnosis and where treatment can be delivered in an outpatient setting, factors which combine to reduce the likelihood of notification to cancer registries. Therefore, both absolute levels of incidence and trends in incidence and survival should be treated with caution.

Relative survival reflects the excess mortality among cancer patients, over and above the background mortality in the country or region where they live. The analyses shown in this briefing use relative survival estimated using the maximum likelihood method for individual records, developed by Estève et al (1) using the `strel` command in Stata version 13.

#### Outcomes

- Over the period 2001-2010 there was little or no change in the age-standardised incidence and mortality of CLL
- The time period covered by the analysis produced great advances in our understanding of this disease, but no overall improvement in survival is shown in the data in this report.

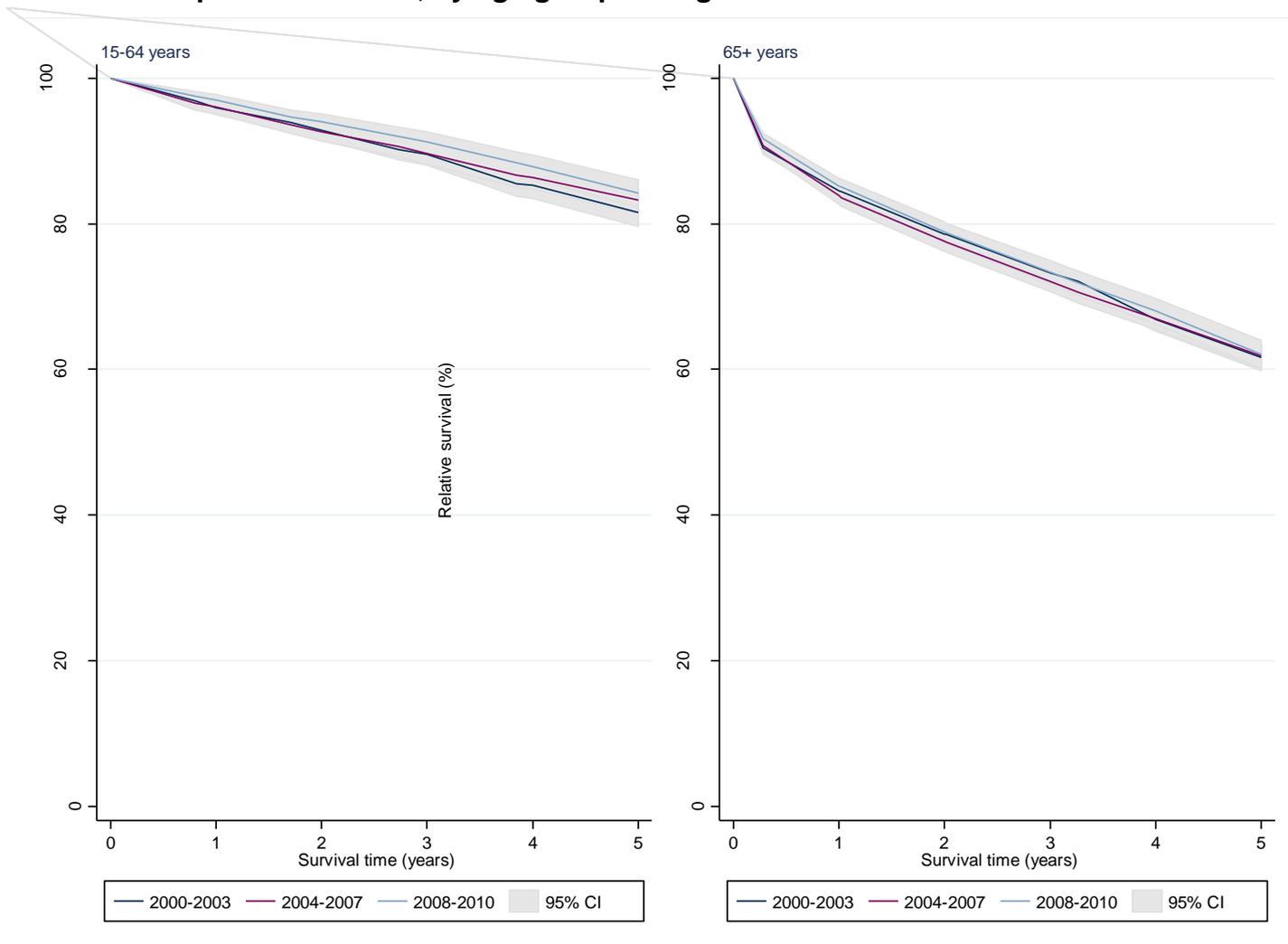
#### Treatment

- Two important drugs, Fludarabine and Rituximab, have more recently been introduced in combination for the treatment of CLL and have shown to improve survival.
- New, targeted therapies as well as the use of more potent antibodies have shown encouraging early outcome data.

#### Key messages

- Advances were made in the understanding of the disease over the period reported but no marked changes across the period of incidence, mortality or survival were observed.
- Important new treatments have been introduced for CLL, and it is likely that patients diagnosed more recently will experience improvements in long term survival.

### Trends in relative survival rates for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia diagnosed in persons in the periods 2000-2003, 2004-2007 and 2008-2010 followed up to end of 2010, by age group in England



Esteve J, Benhamou E, Croasdale M, Raymond L. 'Relative survival and the estimation of net survival: elements for further discussion', Stat Med, 9, 529-538 (1990)

#### FIND OUT MORE:

The PHE Knowledge and Intelligence Team Northern and Yorkshire is the lead KIT for haematological cancers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

#### Other useful resources within the NCIN partnership:

What cancer statistics are available and where can I find them? <http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/reports/>

Public Health England's National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) is a UK-wide initiative, working to drive improvements in cancer awareness, prevention, diagnosis and clinical outcomes by improving and using the information collected about cancer patients for analysis, publication and research.