

Introduction:

Despite that small bowel malignancies are considered to be uncommon, there is an alarmingly worrisome incline in the incidence over the last 4 decades in developed countries. Accordingly, the identification of the epidemiological characteristics of small bowel cancer in developing countries, such as Jordan, is of paramount significance to enable the introduction of effective measures.

Methods:

Data on 427 individuals of different nationalities residing in Jordan who were diagnosed with small bowel cancer during the time period of 2000-2018 was obtained from the Jordan Cancer Registry, the official cancer reporting body in Jordan. Epidemiological statistical analysis, including Kaplan-Meier, was performed to establish the epidemiological features and overall survival of small bowel cancer in Jordan over 18 years.

Results:

A total of 427 individuals with a mean age of 55.5 ± 13.9 years old with a prominent male predominance of 61.1% were included in the analysis. It was reported that 11.9% were smokers at the time of diagnosis. Despite that 36.9% of the individuals had small bowel cancer not otherwise specified (NOS), it was identified that the duodenum was the most prevalent location as it was reported in 43% of the individuals, followed by the jejunum (9.2%) and ileum (8.1%). Moderately differentiated tumours were the most prevalent (30.7%), followed by poorly differentiated tumours which were identified in 15.2% of the patients. 15.5% of the individuals had localized disease at the time of diagnosis, whereas 19.9% had widespread disease with distant metastasis. Adenocarcinoma was the most prevalent tumour morphology as it was identified in 53.2% of the patients, followed by gastrointestinal stromal tumours and carcinoid tumours which were identified in 12.9% and 7.5% of the individuals, respectively. A statistically insignificant incline in the crude incidence of small bowel cancer in Jordan over 18 years was evident with a crude incidence estimated effect of 0.006. The overall survival was 82.1%, 73.9%, 64.6%, 55.3%, and 55.3% at 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, and 5-year interval, respectively.

Conclusions:

Small bowel cancer in Jordan exhibits an earlier onset with a mean age at the time of diagnosis younger than developed countries. Additionally, the overall survival of small bowel cancer in Jordan at 5-year interval is lower in comparison to western countries, and thus mandating prompt intervention.