

LUNG CANCER UPDATE 2009

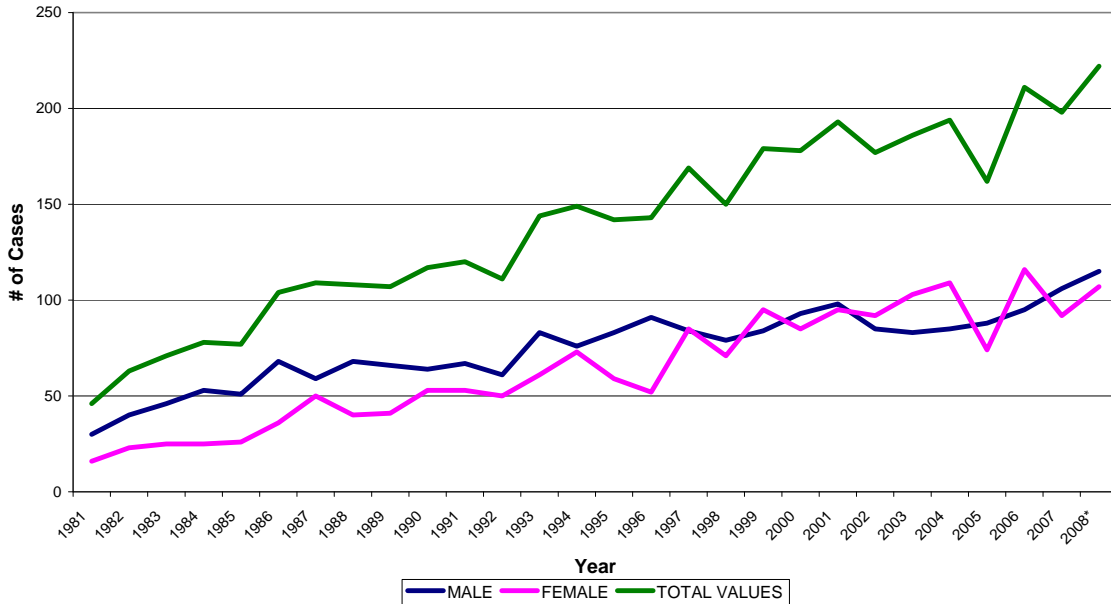
Unity and Mercy Cancer Program

By

Stephen Mann, M.D., Medical Director of Oncology
Unity Hospital

Figure 1 shows lung cancer diagnoses for the Unity and Mercy Cancer Program since 1981. Over the last ten years, there has been nearly a 50% increase in total diagnoses. During this same period nationally, lung cancer incidence has increased by less than 10%. This difference demonstrates substantial growth of the Unity and Mercy program over this period with increasing accessions of lung cancer cases from our service area. Figure 1 also shows that over the last 10 years our lung cancer incidence has been about the same in women and men. Nationally, the incidence of lung cancer has been about 20% greater in men than women over the same period.

FIGURE 1
1981 TO 2008 Mercy and Unity Lung Cancer
Cases by Gender

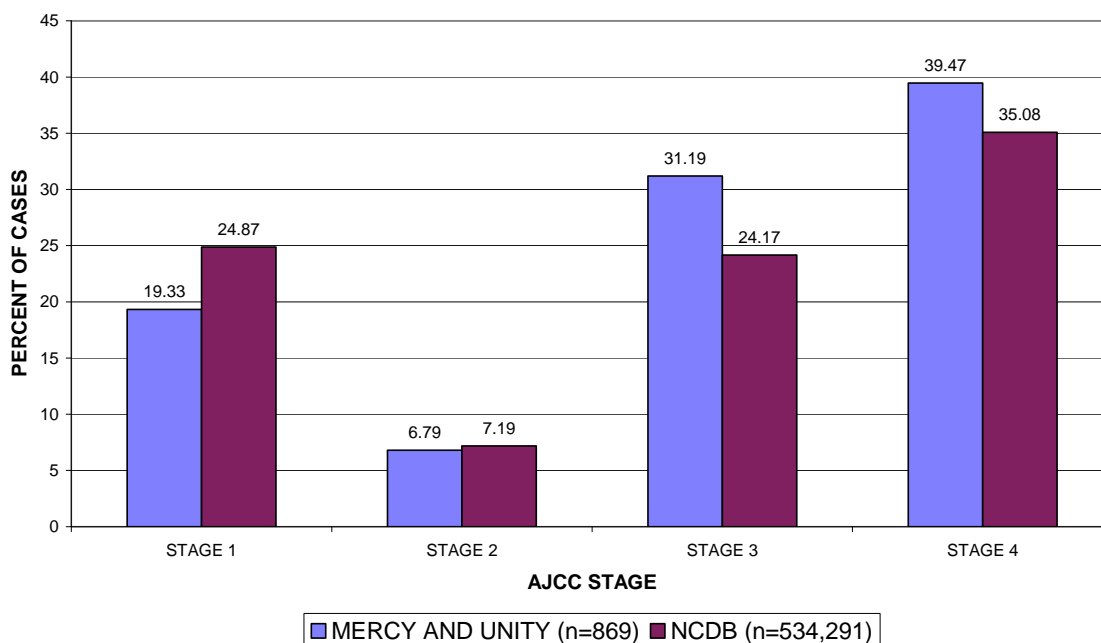


*2008 data is approximated.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

There is no national standard for lung cancer screening currently. The study using CT scanning for high risk patients is still in progress. For this reason, lung cancer detection usually occurs after the development of symptoms. Figure 2 shows that a higher proportion of non-small cell lung cancer diagnoses are made at an early stage (Stage 1 or 2) nationally than at Unity and Mercy (32% vs. 25%). Accordingly, surgical resection was part of the treatment of 25% of the non-small cell lung cancer cases nationally compared with only 20% at Unity and Mercy.

FIGURE 2
NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSED 2000 TO 2006
AJCC STAGE COMPARISON



Nevertheless, survivals by stage and overall at five years from our center compare favorably with national results (see Figures 3A and B). Survival for combined stages at five years was 17.4% at Unity and Mercy compared with 15.4% nationally. This result supports the assertion that appropriate and timely treatment by stage, following the NCCN guidelines, is initiated for our patients at Unity and Mercy Hospitals.

FIGURE 3A
MERCY AND UNITY 5-YR OBSERVED SURVIVAL
NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER
(1999 TO 2003)

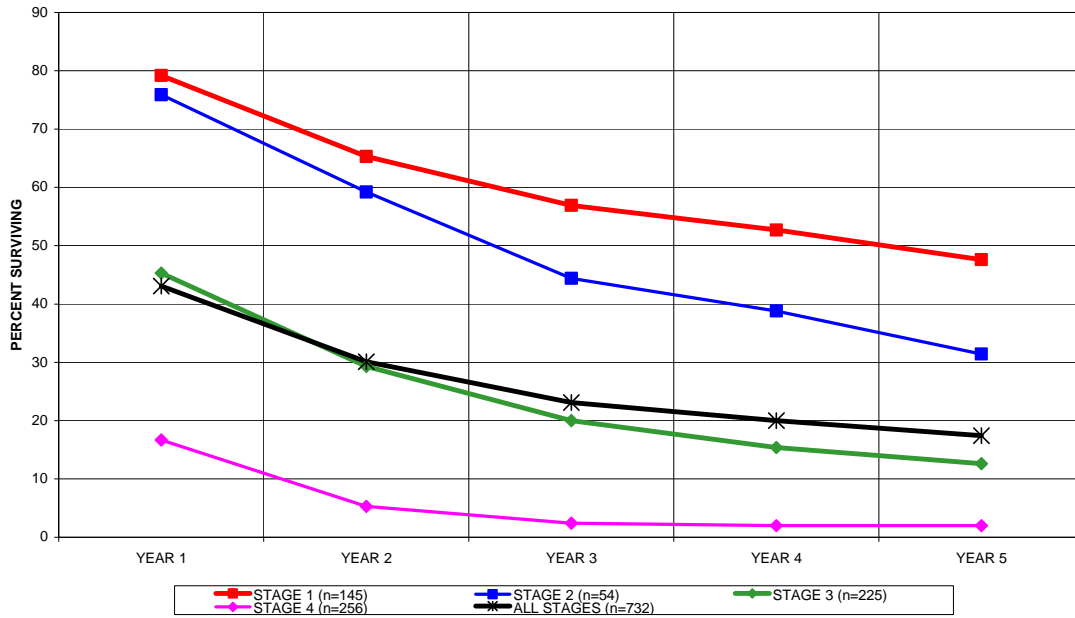
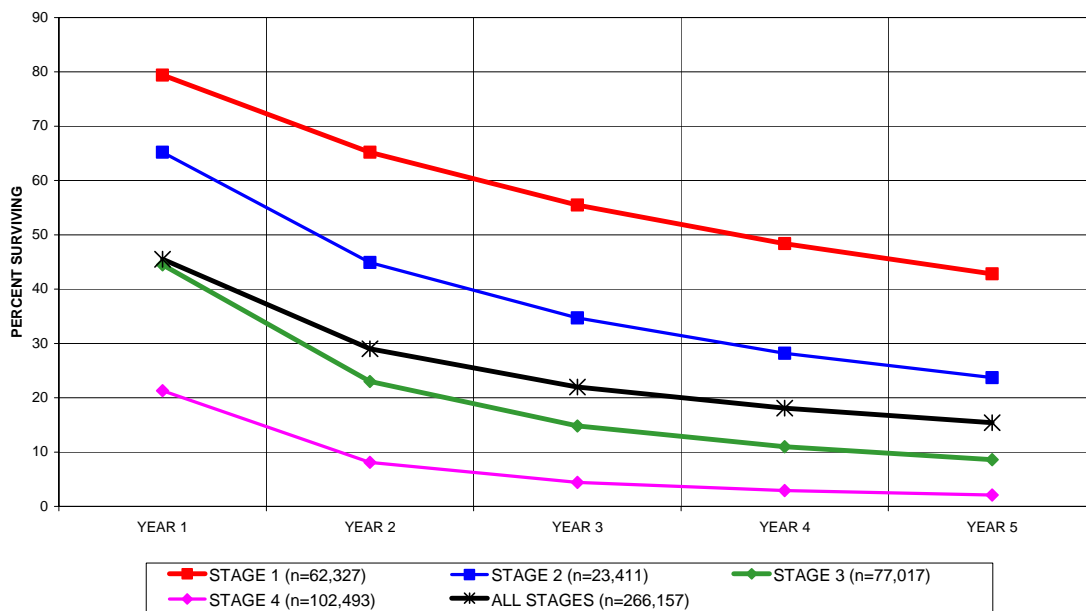


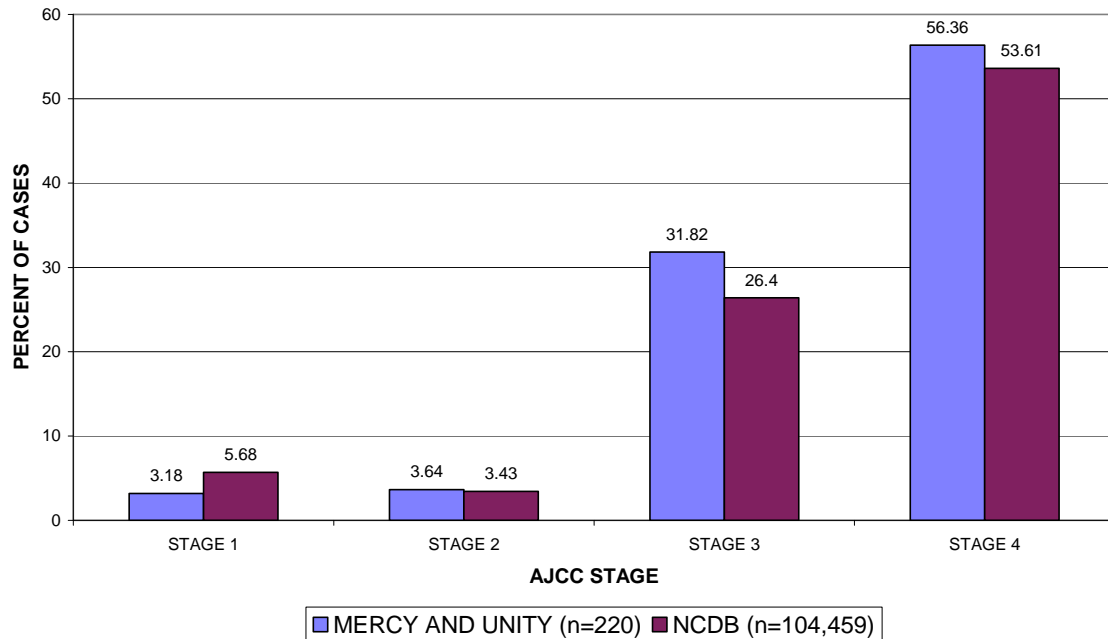
FIGURE 3B
NATIONAL CANCER DATABASE 5-YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL
NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER
(1998 TO 2001)



Small Cell Lung Cancer

Small cell lung cancer makes up a minority of total lung cancer diagnoses (15-20%). Per NCCN guidelines, surgery is typically not employed for treatment even of limited stage disease. Once again, Figure 4 demonstrates a slightly higher proportion of advanced stage cases at diagnosis at Unity and Mercy compared to national data. Early stage (Stage 1 or 2) is unusual (less than 10%) for small cell lung cancer.

FIGURE 4
SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMA DIAGNOSED 2000 TO 2006
AJCC STAGE COMPARISON



Five year survival data by stage for small cell lung cancer is depicted in Figures 5A and B. For combined stages, the five-year survival is very low at 5.2% and is similar between Unity/Mercy and national results. However, survivals at years 1, 2, and 3 are somewhat better at Unity/Mercy than nationally.

FIGURE 5A
MERCY AND UNITY 5-YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL
SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER
(1999 TO 2003)

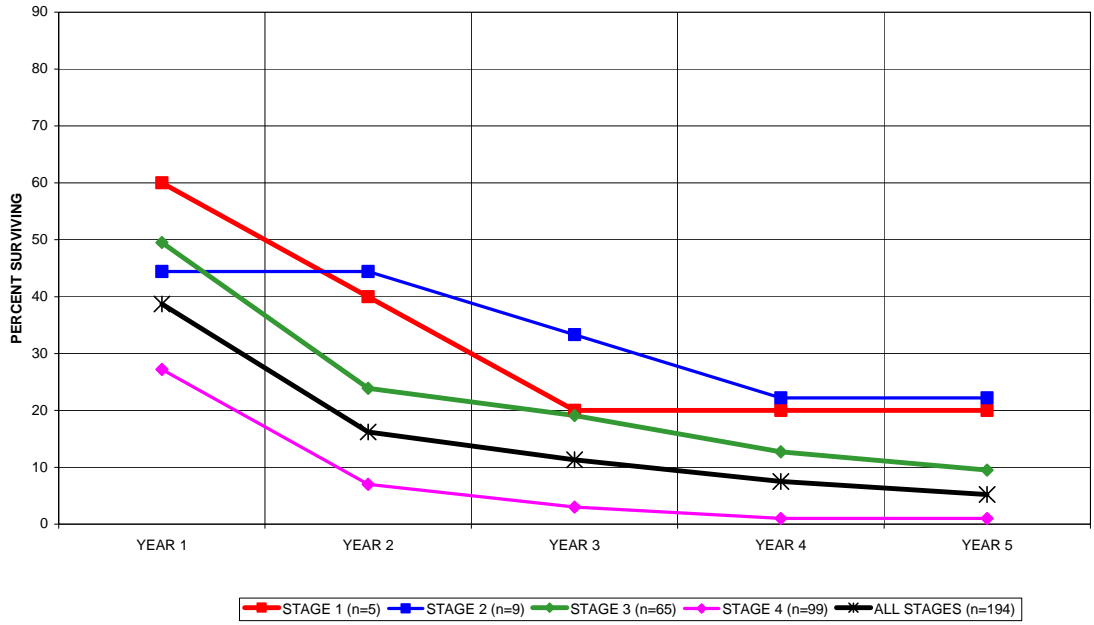


FIGURE 5B
NATIONAL CANCER DATA BASE 5-YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL
SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER
(1998 TO 2001)

