

La qualità dei dati

Come ricordato all'inizio, i registri italiani operano secondo precise regole e criteri codificati a livello internazionale e nazionale, inoltre l'opera dell'AIRTUM in questi anni è stata particolarmente rivolta all'omogeneizzazione delle procedure di rilevazione, codifica e controllo dei dati. Tutto questo per poter fornire risultati di alta affidabilità e validità, o perlomeno di precisione conosciuta. Tuttavia le condizioni operative locali possono portare a differenze nelle procedure che si possono poi tradurre in differenze nei risultati esaminati non corrispondenti alla realtà del fenomeno. E' per questo che, ad accompagnamento della presentazione dei risultati, si offre al lettore una visione più approfondita degli indicatori di qualità dei dati per ciascun registro e di conseguenza delle possibili fonti di variazione spuria.

Death Certificate Only

Il più tradizionale indicatore di completezza della registrazione è la percentuale di casi individuati solo mediante il certificato di morte (Death Certificate Only, DCO). Pur non inclusi nell'analisi di sopravvivenza, i DCO indicano la presenza di un fenomeno di perdita sistematica di casi (in genere a cattiva prognosi, che decedono prima di poter generare altre informazioni all'interno del sistema), che, se esasperato, può portare a una sovrastima della sopravvivenza. Nel nostro caso tutti i registri si mantengono complessivamente al di sotto della soglia complessiva d'accettabilità (intorno al 5%). Per alcune sedi, in genere a cattiva prognosi, tuttavia il fenomeno è più rilevante e supera la soglia fisiologica del 5% (Tabella 3). In particolare si segnalano i valori elevati di DCO per i sarcomi dell'osso segnalati dal registro di Trento (14,3%), del Friuli Venezia Giulia (10%), di Salerno (13%) e Sassari (10%). L'osso è sede di metastasi, ed è quindi possibile che l'elevata percentuale di DCO in quei registri stia a sottolineare una carenza nei sistemi informativi che portano a una certificazione più precisa del caso. L'effetto sulla sopravvivenza potrebbe non solo essere la sovrastima per la sede specifica, ma anche per le sedi d'origine delle metastasi erroneamente codificate come neoplasie primitive dell'osso. Lo stesso fenomeno si osserva per altre sedi di metastasi come il fegato in Romagna (12,6%), Salerno (8,2%) e Sassari (9%) e l'encefalo a Sassari (7,8%).

Deceduti entro l'anno per tumori a buona prognosi (mammella, tiroide, testicolo, linfoma di Hodgkin, corpo dell'utero, melanoma)

Nel caso di tumori a buona prognosi (sopravvivenze a 5 anni superiori al 75%), il decesso entro l'anno deve essere considerato come evento possibile, ma raro. In questo caso, una percentuale superiore alla media di casi siffatti può nascon-

The quality of the data

As mentioned at the beginning of this paper, the Italian Registries operate according to specific rules and nationally and internationally established criteria; moreover during the last few years the AIRTUM of collection, classification, and control of the data. This is to provide results with high validity and reliability, or at least data of which the level of accuracy is known. However, local operational conditions may lead to differences in procedures that may translate in differences in the results that do not reflect the reality of the phenomenon observed. This is why this paper offers the readers a more in-depth view of quality indicators concerning data for each Registry and, consequently, of sources with spurious variations.

Death Certificate Only

The most traditional indicator of a complete recording is the percentage of Death Certificate Only (DCO) cases. Although not included in the survival analysis, they indicate a systematic loss of cases (in general those with a bad prognosis, which cause death before they can generate other information in the system), and if this loss is extreme it may lead to overestimate survival. In our case, all Registries are, overall, below the acceptability threshold which is about 5%. However, for some sites this loss is higher and it is above the physiological threshold of 5% (Table 3). In particular, high DCO values are given to bone sarcomas in the Trento (14.3%), Friuli Venezia Giulia (10%), Salerno (13%) and Sassari (10%) Registries. The bone is a metastasis site, and thus it is possible that such high DCO in these Registries underlines the lack of systems of information leading to a more accurate identification of the cases. The effects on survival might be not only an overestimate for that specific site, but also for the sites of origin of the metastasis, wrongly attributed to primary bone neoplasia. The same phenomenon is observed for other metastasis sites like the liver in Romagna (12.6%), Salerno (8.2%), and Sassari (9%), and the brain in Sassari (7.8%).

Deceased within 1 year for tumours with a favourable prognosis (breast, thyroid, testicle, Hodgkin lymphoma, corpus uteri, melanoma)

In the case of tumours with a favourable prognosis (over 5 year survival in over 75% of the cases), the deaths of patients within a year must be considered as possible but rare events. In this case, an abnormally high number of such cases may hide difficulties of the registry in collecting the information regarding the onset of the disease, or a late recording in the health information system: the result is an underestimation of survival. The Italian Registries show, on the whole, homogeneously low values around 6% (Table 4), with minimal deviations that go from the lowest value in Modena (4.3%) to the highest in Salerno (8.4%).

Table 3. Percentage of DCO by Registry (1995-1999)
Tabella 3. Percentuale di DCO per Registro (1995-1999)

dere una difficoltà del registro nel reperire le informazioni relative alla data d'inizio della patologia, oppure una segnalazione tardiva del sistema informativo sanitario: il risultato è una sottostima della sopravvivenza. I registri italiani mostrano nel complesso valori omogeneamente bassi, intorno al 6% (Tabella 4), con scostamenti minimi che vanno dal valore più basso a Modena (4,3%) al più alto di Salerno (8,4%).

Vivi oltre i 5 anni per tumori a cattiva prognosi (pancreas, vie biliari, polmone, fegato, esofago, mesotelioma)

Specularmente all'indicatore visto prima, è possibile invece considerare il numero di pazienti che sopravvivono a lungo nel caso di tumori a cattiva prognosi (sopravvivenze a 5 anni al di sotto del 15%). Anche in questo caso, vi sono alcune rare situazioni che giustificano sopravvivenze così elevate, tuttavia il

| Registry | % deceased | Registry | % alive after more than 5 years |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Torino | 5.6 | Torino | 11.1 |
| Biella | 6.5 | Biella | 7.9 |
| Genova | 7.0 | Genova | 7.9 |
| Varese | 5.6 | Varese | 8.9 |
| Milano | 6.4 | Milano | 10.3 |
| Veneto | 5.9 | Veneto | 11.8 |
| Trento | 6.5 | Trento | 13.5 |
| Alto Adige | 6.6 | Alto Adige | 11.3 |
| Friuli Venezia Giulia | 6.8 | Friuli Venezia Giulia | 9.6 |
| Parma | 5.3 | Parma | 10.2 |
| Reggio Emilia | 6.1 | Reggio Emilia | 12.7 |
| Modena | 4.3 | Modena | 11.2 |
| Ferrara | 4.8 | Ferrara | 12.8 |
| Romagna | 4.8 | Romagna | 13.8 |
| Firenze | 6.3 | Firenze | 12.8 |
| Umbria | 5.5 | Umbria | 15.5 |
| Macerata | 5.9 | Macerata | 14.6 |
| Napoli | 5.3 | Napoli | 8.9 |
| Salerno | 8.4 | Salerno | 8.1 |
| Sassari | 5.7 | Sassari | 10.8 |
| Ragusa | 7.3 | Ragusa | 9.7 |
| TOTAL | 6.0 | TOTAL | 11.3 |

Table 4. Percentage of deceased within 1 year for good prognosis tumours (breast, thyroid, testis, Hodgkin lymphoma, corpus uteri, melanoma) by Registry (1995-1999).

Tabella 4. Percentuale di deceduti entro l'anno per tumori a buona prognosi (mammella, tiroide, testicolo, linfoma di Hodgkin, corpo dell'utero, melanoma) per Registro (1995-1999).

| SITE | TO | BI | GE | VA |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Lip | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Tongue | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Mouth | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Salivary gland | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 2.9 |
| Oropharynx | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nasopharynx | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Hypopharynx | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Oesophagus | 3.5 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| Stomach | 3.2 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 1.8 |
| Colon | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 0.5 |
| Rectum | 2.8 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.4 |
| Liver | 5.4 | 4.7 | 5.3 | 3.5 |
| Biliary tract | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.7 |
| Pancreas | 5.7 | 2.7 | 4.4 | 2.7 |
| Nasal cavity | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Larynx | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Lung | 4.1 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.3 |
| Bone | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.4 | 0.0 |
| Skin, melanoma | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Mesothelioma | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Kaposi | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Soft tissues | 0.9 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| Breast | 1.5 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.7 |
| Uteri, cervix | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Uteri, corpus | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Ovary | 2.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.4 |
| Other fem genitals | 0.8 | 0.0 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
| Penis | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Prostate | 3.2 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 0.6 |
| Testis | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Kidney | 2.0 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 0.3 |
| Urinary tract | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Bladder | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Choroid, melan | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Brain | 3.1 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 1.6 |
| Thyroid | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| HD | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| NHD | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Myeloma | 3.6 | 4.3 | 1.8 | 0.0 |
| Lymphatic leuk | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| Myeloid leuk | 3.2 | 1.3 | 3.1 | 2.2 |
| All but C44 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.3 |

Table 5. Percentage of patients alive after more than 5 years for bad prognosis tumours (oesophagus, liver, biliary tract, pancreas, lung, mesothelioma) by Registry (1995-1999).

Tabella 5. Percentuale di pazienti vivi oltre i 5 anni per tumori a cattiva prognosi (esofago, fegato, vie biliari, pancreas, polmone, mesotelioma) per Registro (1995-1999).

Alive after more than 5 years for tumours with a bad prognosis (pancreas, biliary tract, lung, liver, oesophagus, mesothelioma)

As a mirror-image of the previous indicator, it is possible to consider the number of long-term surviving patients in the case of cancer with a bad prognosis (5-year survival below 15%). In this case, too, there are some rare situations that justify such survival, but their number is low, usually around 10% (Table 5). Variations between Registries are minimal and the highest values are in Umbria (15.5%) and Macerata (14.6%).

| MI | Ven | TN | BZ | FVG | PR | RE | MO | FE | Rom | Fl | Umb | MC | NA | SA | SS | RA | |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 6.1 | |
| 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 5.1 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 0.0 | |
| 2.5 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 6.7 | |
| 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.4 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 14.3 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 8.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 1.8 | 2.0 | 4.7 | 0.7 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 5.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 0.0 | |
| 4.0 | 2.5 | 5.7 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 4.3 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3.5 | 5.1 | 1.3 | |
| 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 0.7 | |
| 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 0.8 | |
| 3.3 | 4.3 | 6.4 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 12.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 8.2 | 9.0 | 6.0 | |
| 4.8 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 7.1 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 6.3 | 1.2 | 3.3 | |
| 4.9 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 2.7 | 4.1 | 9.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 7.9 | 5.8 | 4.2 | |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 2.0 | |
| 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 4.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 2.3 | |
| 0.0 | 2.6 | 14.3 | 0.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 13.6 | 10.0 | 6.7 | |
| 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.1 | |
| 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 0.0 | |
| 1.2 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 0.6 | |
| 1.3 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.0 | |
| 0.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 3.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 4.3 | 0.0 |
| 0.0 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.4 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 6.3 | 4.8 | |
| 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 2.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 8.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 18.2 | 0.0 | |
| 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 3.8 | 1.2 | |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 3.4 | 2.8 | 4.2 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 6.1 | 7.8 | 1.1 | |
| 0.0 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 0.0 | |
| 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 2.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 0.7 | |
| 2.8 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 5.1 | |
| 1.9 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1.3 | |
| 2.4 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 6.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 6.6 | 0.0 | |
| 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 4.0 | 2.0 | |

loro numero è appunto raro, in genere intorno al 10% (Tabella 5). Le variazioni fra registri sono minime e i valori più alti si verificano in Umbria (15,5%) e Macerata (14,6%).

Verifica microscopica

Alcuni dei comportamenti anomali precedentemente evidenziati da lunghezze di sopravvivenza non consone all'atteso della patologia specifica, sono legati alla cattiva documentazione del caso che fa commettere errori di classificazione, in genere legati alle caratteristiche biologiche del tu-

Microscopic confirmation

Some of the previous anomalous behaviours highlighted by survival periods that are not in line with specific pathologies, are linked to bad documentation of the case, which leads to classification errors, generally linked to the biological characteristics of the tumours (malignancy). In this case a good indicator of the quality of the documentation available to the registry is the portion of microscopic verifications that should be high (over 80%). Obviously, for some sites (liver and biliary tract, pancreas, brain, eye), the portion of microscopic verifi-

Table 6. Percentage of patients with microscopic certification by Registry (1995-1999)
 Tabella 6. Percentuale di pazienti con verifica microscopica per Registro (1995-1999)

more (malignità). In questo caso un buon indicatore della qualità della documentazione a disposizione dei registri è dato dalla proporzione di verifiche microscopiche che è bene mostri valori elevati (al di sopra dell'80%). Ovviamente, per alcune sedi (fegato e vie biliari, pancreas, encefalo, occhio), la proporzione di verifiche microscopiche è più bassa poiché in assenza d'intervento chirurgico la pratica clinica diagnostica si è orientata verso altre tecniche non invasive. La Tabella 6 deve quindi essere letta confrontando i registri per sede specifica del tumore.

Sedi mal definite

La proporzione delle sedi mal definite ha valore solo generale e indica una possibile carenza nel sistema di documentazione dei casi. Tuttavia è difficile poter prevedere in che modo tale distorsione influirà sulla sopravvivenza (Tabella 7). Sul totale dei registri questa percentuale si aggira attorno al 3%, con punte del 4,6% a Trento e 4,4% a Napoli. Rimangono poi alcuni nodi irrisolti di entità minore che ri-

| Registry | Undefined sites |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Torino | 2.9 |
| Biella | 3.7 |
| Genova | 3.3 |
| Varese | 3.4 |
| Milano | 2.2 |
| Veneto | 2.8 |
| Trento | 4.6 |
| Alto Adige | 2.6 |
| Friuli Venezia Giulia | 3.3 |
| Parma | 2.2 |
| Reggio Emilia | 2.3 |
| Modena | 3.2 |
| Ferrara | 2.6 |
| Romagna | 2.5 |
| Firenze | 2.9 |
| Umbria | 1.3 |
| Macerata | 3.1 |
| Napoli | 4.4 |
| Salerno | 2.3 |
| Sassari | 3.9 |
| Ragusa | 2.9 |
| TOTAL | 2.9 |

Table 7. Percentage of patients with undefined cancer site by Registry (1995-1999).

Tabella 7. Percentuale di pazienti con sedi del tumore mal definita per registro (1995-1999).

| SITE | TO | BI | GE | VA | MI |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Lip | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 96.88 | 100.00 |
| Tongue | 97.54 | 95.35 | 97.06 | 98.84 | 97.73 |
| Mouth | 97.89 | 97.5 | 96.79 | 95.00 | 97.50 |
| Salivary gland | 100.00 | 66.67 | 92.54 | 88.57 | 92.31 |
| Oropharynx | 97.37 | 94.74 | 97.70 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Nasopharynx | 90.00 | 100.00 | 86.67 | 91.89 | 100.00 |
| Hypopharynx | 100.00 | 96.30 | 91.8 | 98.65 | 88.89 |
| Oesophagus | 84.12 | 85.71 | 78.5 | 91.71 | 85.71 |
| Stomach | 91.81 | 87.41 | 84.5 | 93.04 | 79.73 |
| Colon | 92.25 | 90.21 | 86.09 | 93.66 | 86.10 |
| Rectum | 93.42 | 93.94 | 89.52 | 95.41 | 90.15 |
| Liver | 32.14 | 32.23 | 45.08 | 64.81 | 41.31 |
| Biliary tract | 52.97 | 56.18 | 58.96 | 65.78 | 61.54 |
| Pancreas | 42.04 | 48.92 | 41.44 | 47.05 | 43.94 |
| Nasal cavity | 95.24 | 93.33 | 93.88 | 96.67 | 100.00 |
| Larynx | 97.40 | 96.08 | 93.25 | 97.86 | 94.17 |
| Lung | 74.89 | 73.65 | 67.99 | 78.22 | 57.55 |
| Bone | 94.59 | 83.33 | 86.67 | 76.47 | 83.33 |
| Skin, melanoma | 98.92 | 100.00 | 94.15 | 98.98 | 100.00 |
| Mesothelioma | 99.22 | 100.00 | 83.23 | 98.46 | 100.00 |
| Kaposi | 89.69 | 100.00 | 88.75 | 84.75 | 100.00 |
| Soft tissues | 94.69 | 96.88 | 90.12 | 96.39 | 100.00 |
| Breast | 95.84 | 91.77 | 91.16 | 95.79 | 93.78 |
| Uteri, cervix | 96.99 | 93.55 | 94.69 | 98.88 | 93.75 |
| Uteri, corpus | 97.06 | 100.00 | 95.57 | 97.2 | 96.15 |
| Ovary | 87.91 | 88.31 | 84.51 | 88.74 | 81.02 |
| Other female genitals | 92.48 | 93.75 | 88.54 | 92.55 | 94.59 |
| Penis | 96.15 | 100.00 | 73.33 | 90.91 | 100.00 |
| Prostate | 90.38 | 96.03 | 82.49 | 92.09 | 76.66 |
| Testis | 99.07 | 93.10 | 92.45 | 99.17 | 97.37 |
| Kidney | 82.69 | 75.37 | 75.00 | 85.69 | 82.22 |
| Urinary tract | 89.91 | 87.10 | 91.30 | 94.20 | 84.21 |
| Bladder | 94.10 | 97.18 | 85.66 | 95.80 | 89.20 |
| Choroid, melan | 57.14 | 62.50 | 37.50 | 11.11 | 20.00 |
| Brain | 35.77 | 36.67 | 52.62 | 59.67 | 49.14 |
| Thyroid | 99.08 | 97.18 | 89.77 | 93.44 | 84.96 |
| HD | 99.17 | 90.20 | 93.23 | 99.21 | 100.00 |
| NHD | 95.84 | 95.59 | 90.41 | 98.29 | 96.90 |
| Myeloma | 88.63 | 78.72 | 80.00 | 91.60 | 92.59 |
| Lymphatic leuk | 90.16 | 100.00 | 78.30 | 97.57 | 95.15 |
| Myeloid leuk | 90.04 | 98.73 | 82.88 | 97.28 | 92.77 |
| All but C44 | 84.28 | 83.59 | 79.29 | 87.55 | 79.40 |

cations is lower, since clinical diagnostic practice is oriented towards other non-invasive techniques in the absence of surgery. Thus, Table 6 must be read comparing the registries by specific cancer site.

Undefined sites

The portion of undefined sites is only a general indicator of a possible lack in the documentation system of the cases. However it is difficult to foresee in which direction this distortion will impact survival (Table 7). Out of the total of the registries this

| Ven | TN | BZ | FVG | PR | RE | MO | FE | Rom | Fl | Umb | MC | NA | SA | SS | RA | POOL |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 98.67 | 100.00 | 94.44 | 97.89 | 86.67 | 100.00 | 66.67 | 100.00 | 88.00 | 93.48 | 90.53 | 100.00 | 62.50 | 92.86 | 97.73 | 85.71 | 95.44 |
| 98.15 | 90.91 | 100.00 | 97.78 | 95.24 | 82.76 | 94.87 | 87.18 | 95.89 | 90.29 | 90.91 | 95.00 | 84.21 | 77.55 | 92.86 | 71.43 | 94.93 |
| 97.67 | 91.87 | 98.72 | 96.89 | 100.00 | 86.36 | 96.23 | 96.08 | 96.63 | 87.86 | 86.67 | 93.33 | 81.82 | 90.74 | 100.00 | 86.67 | 95.17 |
| 95.28 | 90.91 | 92.00 | 90.77 | 100.00 | 91.67 | 96.15 | 88.89 | 95.38 | 82.14 | 75.38 | 100.00 | 88.89 | 80.00 | 92.86 | 100.00 | 90.14 |
| 98.39 | 92.68 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 97.14 | 92.59 | 97.87 | 91.43 | 97.18 | 93.33 | 91.67 | 100.00 | 66.67 | 96.77 | 92.59 | 100.00 | 97.10 |
| 93.22 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 93.02 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 96.3 | 57.14 | 95.24 | 88.89 | 74.07 | 83.33 | 73.33 | 73.53 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 89.78 |
| 97.81 | 79.49 | 95.45 | 97.5 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 94.44 | 100.00 | 87.50 | 90.63 | 100.00 | 88.89 | 92.31 | 93.10 | 100.00 | 95.37 |
| 88.03 | 87.29 | 96.05 | 92.33 | 93.75 | 92.86 | 76.06 | 85.90 | 86.36 | 69.39 | 85.29 | 85.71 | 73.53 | 74.36 | 81.08 | 61.54 | 86.23 |
| 90.47 | 83.81 | 93.83 | 92.56 | 86.16 | 89.93 | 90.36 | 90.92 | 90.46 | 80.60 | 85.52 | 87.91 | 77.73 | 77.85 | 90.10 | 83.93 | 87.82 |
| 91.55 | 89.21 | 93.38 | 94.08 | 89.79 | 91.17 | 92.36 | 91.52 | 91.17 | 87.32 | 86.48 | 88.35 | 81.32 | 81.67 | 89.51 | 85.02 | 89.94 |
| 93.69 | 90.85 | 94.48 | 93.64 | 92.53 | 91.62 | 93.91 | 93.30 | 92.75 | 90.35 | 91.36 | 91.56 | 89.25 | 85.37 | 92.90 | 87.74 | 92.06 |
| 48.39 | 50.10 | 45.19 | 58.68 | 39.26 | 39.04 | 42.29 | 49.84 | 46.00 | 41.27 | 60.71 | 41.42 | 38.38 | 42.13 | 48.26 | 20.26 | 46.57 |
| 66.12 | 54.01 | 55.68 | 69.86 | 48.65 | 57.14 | 48.7 | 64.20 | 53.85 | 57.77 | 62.47 | 64.13 | 41.67 | 54.49 | 55.29 | 47.54 | 58.80 |
| 46.52 | 35.45 | 48.89 | 49.85 | 37.35 | 37.40 | 28.63 | 52.03 | 40.23 | 38.06 | 35.45 | 38.18 | 46.72 | 35.87 | 38.34 | 23.81 | 42.01 |
| 98.88 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 95.45 | 80.00 | 94.44 | 90.91 | 100.00 | 78.18 | 79.07 | 93.75 | 80.00 | 73.33 | 100.00 | 83.33 | 92.50 |
| 96.57 | 91.89 | 96.18 | 97.82 | 95.51 | 88.83 | 98.77 | 94.18 | 94.57 | 87.99 | 87.90 | 95.9 | 89.13 | 76.12 | 96.10 | 89.80 | 93.54 |
| 74.41 | 74.17 | 84.27 | 81.55 | 74.74 | 79.78 | 68.39 | 77.23 | 78.18 | 64.98 | 74.51 | 78.27 | 60.68 | 62.86 | 71.04 | 60.21 | 73.08 |
| 83.33 | 57.14 | 85.71 | 90.00 | 73.08 | 65.00 | 100.00 | 61.90 | 81.25 | 74.07 | 71.19 | 80.00 | 55.17 | 59.32 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 76.94 |
| 98.39 | 98.97 | 99.03 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 99.48 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 99.38 | 94.82 | 92.51 | 99.56 | 96.30 | 98.06 | 98.92 | 98.77 | 98.12 |
| 95.14 | 70.00 | 95.45 | 97.14 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 83.33 | 100.00 | 94.81 | 89.04 | 97.14 | 90.48 | 91.30 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 92.79 |
| 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.31 | 97.83 | 97.37 | 88.14 | 83.00 | 92.86 | 100.00 | 92.31 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 92.86 | 93.52 |
| 97.79 | 89.55 | 92.31 | 96.65 | 96.36 | 94.87 | 96.92 | 93.33 | 99.12 | 89.56 | 87.23 | 97.37 | 72.41 | 92.47 | 95.45 | 95.83 | 94.12 |
| 95.47 | 94.12 | 93.12 | 95.46 | 97.61 | 95.51 | 98.87 | 96.64 | 95.70 | 93.71 | 93.49 | 96.7 | 93.91 | 83.04 | 95.38 | 94.49 | 94.57 |
| 97.07 | 94.87 | 94.74 | 98.31 | 97.87 | 97.12 | 99.44 | 96.55 | 98.28 | 96.54 | 95.36 | 95.83 | 87.06 | 89.62 | 100.00 | 96.83 | 96.38 |
| 97.21 | 96.65 | 98.04 | 98.36 | 96.82 | 96.4 | 97.57 | 96.69 | 98.22 | 95.73 | 93.35 | 97.33 | 95.04 | 93.09 | 96.09 | 96.55 | 96.63 |
| 87.79 | 99.37 | 89.45 | 97.53 | 83.19 | 84.24 | 80.62 | 77.30 | 86.62 | 78.77 | 78.96 | 86.01 | 78.50 | 77.38 | 80.75 | 78.57 | 85.14 |
| 87.34 | 67.53 | 96.36 | 81.53 | 82.35 | 89.55 | 96.30 | 97.10 | 91.08 | 90.65 | 80.95 | 88.89 | 84.38 | 87.04 | 92.31 | 85.71 | 86.82 |
| 91.94 | 100.00 | 83.33 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 60.00 | 100.00 | 92.86 | 100.00 | 89.19 | 93.18 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 80.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 92.03 |
| 86.80 | 82.31 | 92.47 | 94.86 | 89.94 | 88.84 | 95.34 | 80.49 | 87.25 | 78.52 | 80.4 | 87.97 | 52.53 | 73.06 | 78.33 | 67.88 | 86.39 |
| 98.21 | 97.83 | 98.72 | 95.97 | 100.00 | 92.50 | 100.00 | 85.19 | 95.76 | 98.23 | 89.13 | 100.00 | 93.48 | 81.91 | 97.50 | 100.00 | 95.80 |
| 83.95 | 99.5 | 76.35 | 92.74 | 81.61 | 66.39 | 82.80 | 78.93 | 80.18 | 81.83 | 79.52 | 80.95 | 78.95 | 65.61 | 76.84 | 70.51 | 81.80 |
| 82.39 | 56.21 | 89.36 | 67.25 | 92.31 | 53.85 | 91.67 | 87.50 | 85.11 | 88.35 | 91.79 | 100.00 | 69.23 | 69.57 | 66.67 | 85.71 | 80.22 |
| 93.87 | 91.66 | 95.37 | 92.08 | 94.63 | 93.41 | 98.18 | 85.55 | 92.19 | 88.09 | 88.92 | 92.73 | 90.22 | 81.95 | 71.66 | 85.89 | 90.91 |
| 47.37 | 50.00 | 100.00 | 73.33 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 92.86 | 87.50 | 72.22 | 48.15 | 85.00 | 50.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 50.00 | 63.04 |
| 66.53 | 2.09 | 63.40 | 64.29 | 62.09 | 29.17 | 47.27 | 46.74 | 55.29 | 46.65 | 57.72 | 40.15 | 59.50 | 55.94 | 44.53 | 48.42 | 52.18 |
| 96.33 | 90.37 | 98.10 | 97.96 | 94.49 | 96.97 | 96.98 | 94.86 | 92.83 | 86.88 | 85.85 | 98.08 | 90.51 | 82.02 | 98.40 | 91.03 | 93.01 |
| 98.02 | 97.01 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.36 | 88.04 | 90.60 | 100.00 | 98.28 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 97.06 |
| 96.15 | 97.62 | 97.47 | 99.14 | 99.58 | 97.24 | 99.70 | 97.82 | 97.05 | 86.49 | 89.07 | 95.88 | 89.03 | 94.14 | 99.07 | 96.62 | 95.30 |
| 83.82 | 96.60 | 98.41 | 98.79 | 99.57 | 81.67 | 99.71 | 91.41 | 95.61 | 57.71 | 67.48 | 91.23 | 68.67 | 98.48 | 71.97 | 45.57 | 85.29 |
| 91.08 | 100.00 | 98.14 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 91.26 | 99.49 | 96.71 | 97.76 | 52.96 | 68.45 | 90.8 | 97.73 | 97.47 | 99.37 | 96.05 | 89.75 |
| 88.97 | 100.00 | 99.05 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 87.23 | 99.46 | 94.69 | 93.19 | 57.89 | 77.85 | 91.94 | 96.43 | 96.28 | 93.42 | 100.00 | 89.91 |
| 84.94 | 81.82 | 87.85 | 88.47 | 83.64 | 84.83 | 85.27 | 85.29 | 85.66 | 77.9 | 81.69 | 84.81 | 71.97 | 74.99 | 79.62 | 74.63 | 83.17 |

guardano la standardizzazione nei metodi di rilevazione dei registri. Le difficoltà si concentrano soprattutto nella diagnosi e valutazione del cancro della vescica e delle neoplasie endocraniche. Nel primo caso vi è un problema di definizione di malignità della patologia, nel secondo caso si sovrappone alle difficoltà precedenti il fatto che l'encefalo è spesso sede di lesioni secondarie (metastasi): quando non si dispone di una buona documentazione clinica, cosa che talora può capitare nel lavoro dei registri, spesso è difficile attribuire la diagnosi corretta.

percentage is around 3%, with peaks of 4.6% in Trento and 4.4% in Naples. Minor problems due to the standardisation of the methods of ascertainment have not been solved, particularly in the diagnosis and the assessment of bladder and intracranic cancer. In the former the problem lies in the degree of malignancy, in the latter the fact that the brain is a frequent site of metastases. When adequate clinical records are not available the attribution of a precise diagnosis is problematic.