NON-HODGKIN B-CELL LYMPHOMA OF THE FACE: A POPULATION-BASED SURVIVAL ANALYSIS

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Introduction

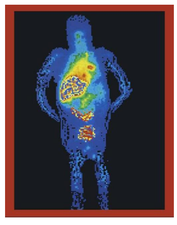
Facial presentations of non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphoma (NHBCL) are rare and diagnostically challenging, often mimicking benign dermatologic or ophthalmologic conditions. These lymphomas, despite distinct anatomical and clinical characteristics, remain undercharacterized at the population level.

Objectives

To describe population-level survival outcomes of facial NHBCL using Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) registry data.

Methods

Data were extracted from the SEER 17 Registries (2000–2022) using SEER*Stat version 8.4.5. Inclusion criteria required primary sites in facial/head and neck regions (C00.0–C00.2, C08.0–C08.9, C30.0–C31.3, C44.0–C44.3, C49.0, C69.6) and histologic classification as NHBCL with malignant behavior per the 2021 SEER Lymphoid Neoplasm Recode. Kaplan–Meier survival curves assessed overall survival (OS).



Results

8,025 cases of facial NHBCL were identified. Facial NHBCL comprised 4.7% (n=8,025/170,574) of all head and neck NHBCL cases in the SEER 17 database from 2000 to 2022.

The median age at diagnosis was 65 to 69 years, with a slight male predominance (51%). The most common primary site was the orbit (29%), followed by facial skin (19%) and nasal cavity (11%).

One-year cause-specific survival was 94.9% (95% CI, 94.3–95.4), 3-year was 91.0% (95% CI, 90.3–91.7), and 5-year was 88.6% (95% CI, 87.7–89.4).

Most deaths occurred within 12 months of diagnosis. Survival declined with age, from 92.3% (95% CI, 90–94) at age 65 to 68.6% (95% CI, 60.7–75.2) in those 90 and older. No statistically significant differences in 5-year survival were found between males and females (*P*=0.067) or between non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black patients (*P*=0.34), suggesting consistent prognosis across sex and racial groups.

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier Overall Survival Stratified by Race

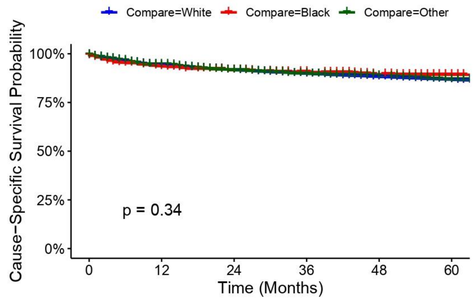
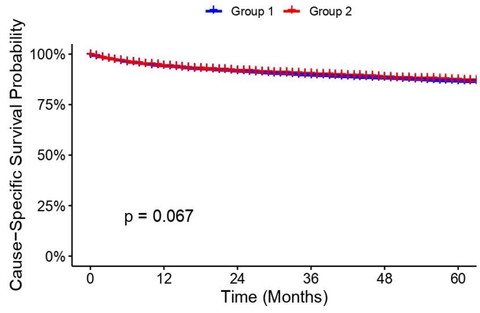


Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier Overall Survival Stratified by Sex



Discussion

This analysis reveals the orbit as the most commonly affected site for facial NHBCL. The disease shows high OS, particularly in younger age groups, though outcomes decline significantly after age 65. No statistically significant differences in 5-year survival were observed by sex or race, underscoring the generally favorable prognosis across demographic subgroups.

Summary

Facial non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphoma most commonly affects the orbit and shows high overall survival across sex and racial groups, with outcomes declining significantly in older age.

References

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