



Lymphoma at Its Peak: Global Burden of Hodgkin Lymphoma in Women With a Focus on Young-Onset Trends and Sociodemographic Disparities, 1990–2023

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INTRODUCTION

Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) is a highly curable yet consequential malignancy that disproportionately affects adolescents and young adults. Among women, its early age peak and long survival create substantial survivorship and health-system implications. Although global outcomes have improved, population growth and unequal access to timely diagnosis and effective treatment may sustain or intensify burden in lower-resource settings. Contemporary female-specific estimates are needed to characterize changing incidence, mortality, disability, and inequities across countries and development levels worldwide.

AIM

To characterize long-term changes in the burden of Hodgkin lymphoma among women worldwide, emphasizing the young-onset peak, evolving patterns of incidence, mortality, prevalence, and disability, and disparities across sociodemographic development levels and geographic regions. This analysis seeks to identify populations with persistently high or increasing burden and inform equitable, age-responsive cancer-control and survivorship strategies.

METHOD

We utilized GBD 2023 framework on women HL burden (1990–2023) encompassing incidence, prevalence, deaths, and DALYs both absolute counts and age-standardized rates (ASR) per 100,000 stratified by SDI quintile and seven GBD super-regions, year and location across the 204 countries and territories. AAPC was estimated using log-linear regression.

CONCLUSIONS

Female HL mortality and age-standardized DALYs are declining globally, reflecting therapeutic progress. However, rising absolute burdens in low-SDI regions and Sub-Saharan Africa, alongside persistently high incidence in young women, demand targeted resource allocation, early diagnosis initiatives, and equitable access to curative therapies worldwide.

RESULTS

Declining Yet Diverging: Global Burden of Hodgkin Lymphoma in Women, 1990–2023

GBD 2023 Analysis | Female Sex | SDI-Stratified | Deaths –10.6% globally, but rising in low-SDI settings

