

Screening and Early Detection of Gastric Cancer

East Versus West



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KEYWORDS

• Gastric cancer • Treatment • Regional disparity • Screening

KEY POINTS

- Certain Asian countries including Korea and Japan shows much lower ratio of mortality over incidence of gastric cancer than other countries.
- Early detection after screening program and subsequent surgical treatment including appropriate lymph node dissection has been developed successfully in East Asian countries.
- Different ethnicity have not been reported as independent prognostic factors for gastric cancer yet.
- Molecular approaches for gastric cancer are expected as a new paradigm to characterize gastric cancer instead of conventional clinicopathologic or epidemiologic investigation.

GASTRIC CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY: MORTALITY, INCIDENCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Gastric cancer is the fifth most common malignancy in the world with about 1 million new cases estimated in 2012 (952,000 cases, 6.8% of the total).¹ Age-standardized incidence rates are about 6 times as high in Eastern Asia compared with North America, ranging from 4 in North America to 24.2 in Eastern Asia (41.8 in South Korea, the highest in the world) for both sexes. Regarding the cause of death, gastric cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in the world (723,000 deaths; 8.8% of the total in 2012).

Considering a report from the United Nations in 2012, the life expectancy for gastric cancer patients does not seem to be related to incidence or mortality among different countries (Fig. 1).² It should be noted that in general the mortality of gastric cancer is likely to show a high incidence in most countries. However, considering the ratio of mortality over incidence, Korea and Japan show a much lesser ratio than Western countries. This interesting phenomenon is more remarkable among gastric cancer prevalent areas. Fig. 2 shows the incidence, mortality, and life expectancy for the

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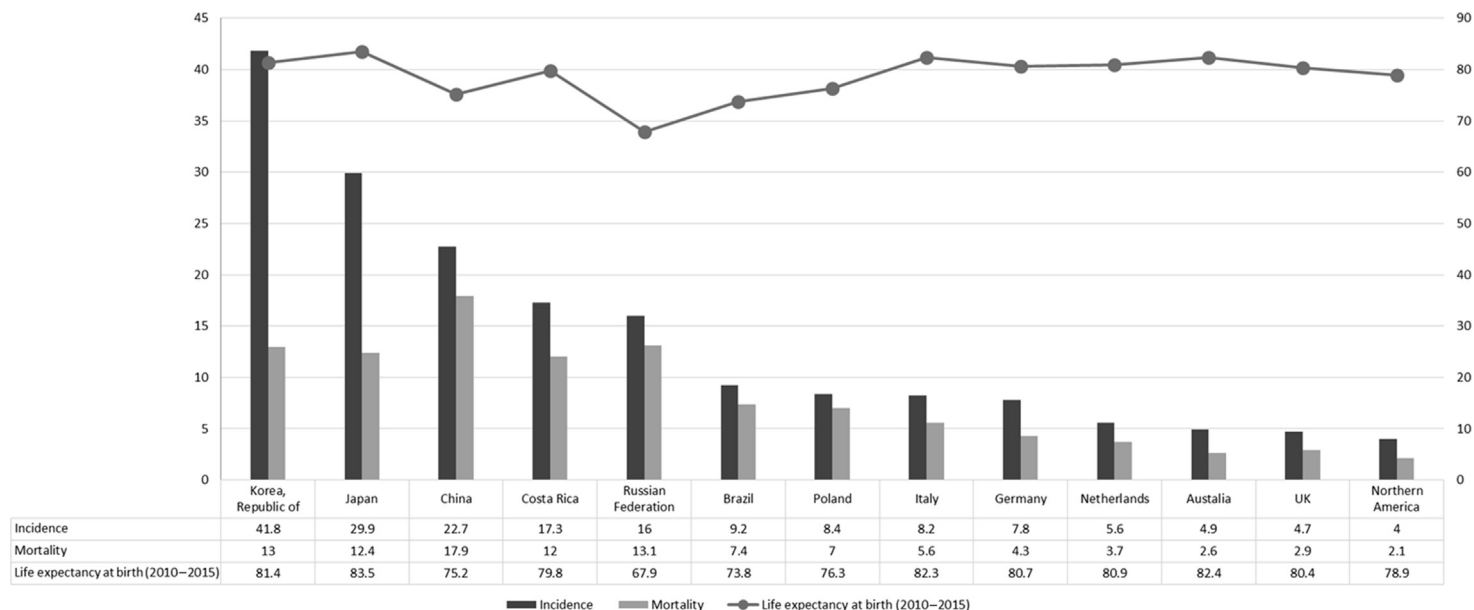


Fig. 1. The incidence and mortality of gastric cancer and life expectancy around the world. (From Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. World population prospects: the 2012 revision. New York: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; 2013.)

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