

Gender differences in cancer care: a mission to be accomplished



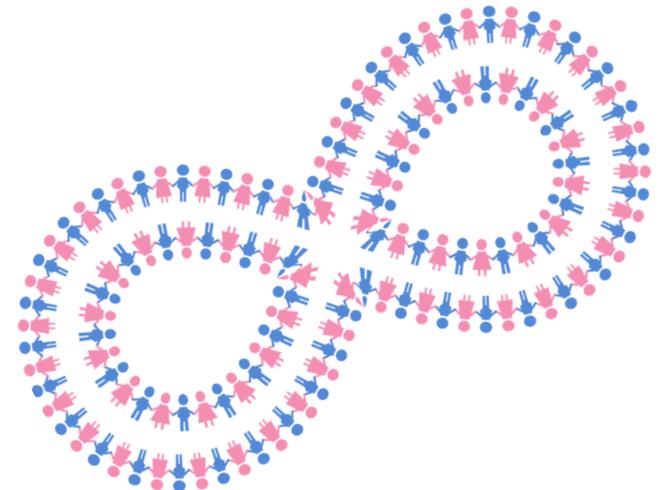
Hein Van Poppel, MD., PhD.
em. Prof. Urology KU Leuven
Chair EAU Policy Office
Co-Chair ECO Inequalities Network



Thursday, 30 June 2022, 8:00 – 9:00 CET

“Addressing the challenge of gender and health”

Brussels (JDE 3253) and Microsoft Teams (hybrid)



Gender differences in Cancer related Mortality?

(Longevity: Women live 5-8 years longer than men)

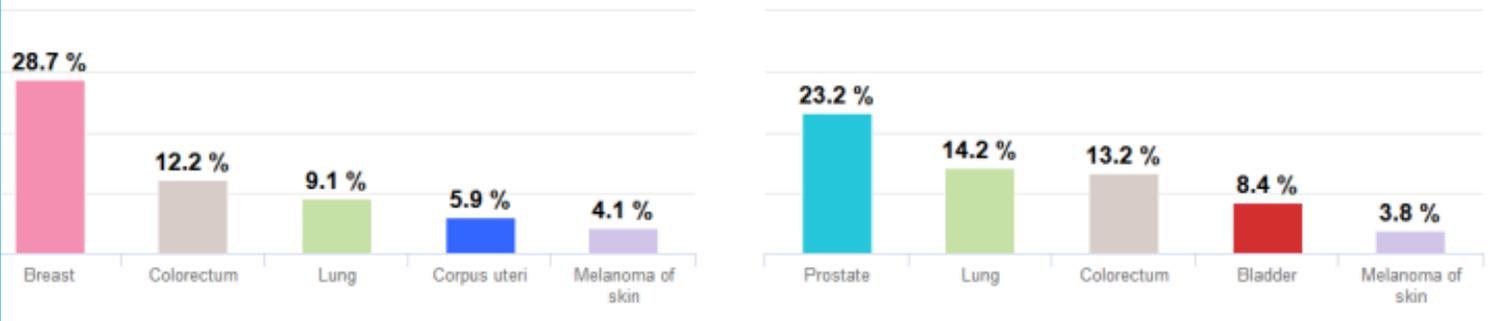
- 2016: 1.2 Mio deaths from cancer in EU-27 = 25,8% of total number of deaths
- 29% among men vs. 22.6% among women
- Historically: Men obviously had to work, women did house-keeping
- Men do more strenuous and hazardous work, smoke more, are more exposed to toxic agents, develop more cancers (oro-pharyngeal, respiratory, GI, renal, bladder and ... prostate)
- And... men care less for themselves and get sick more often



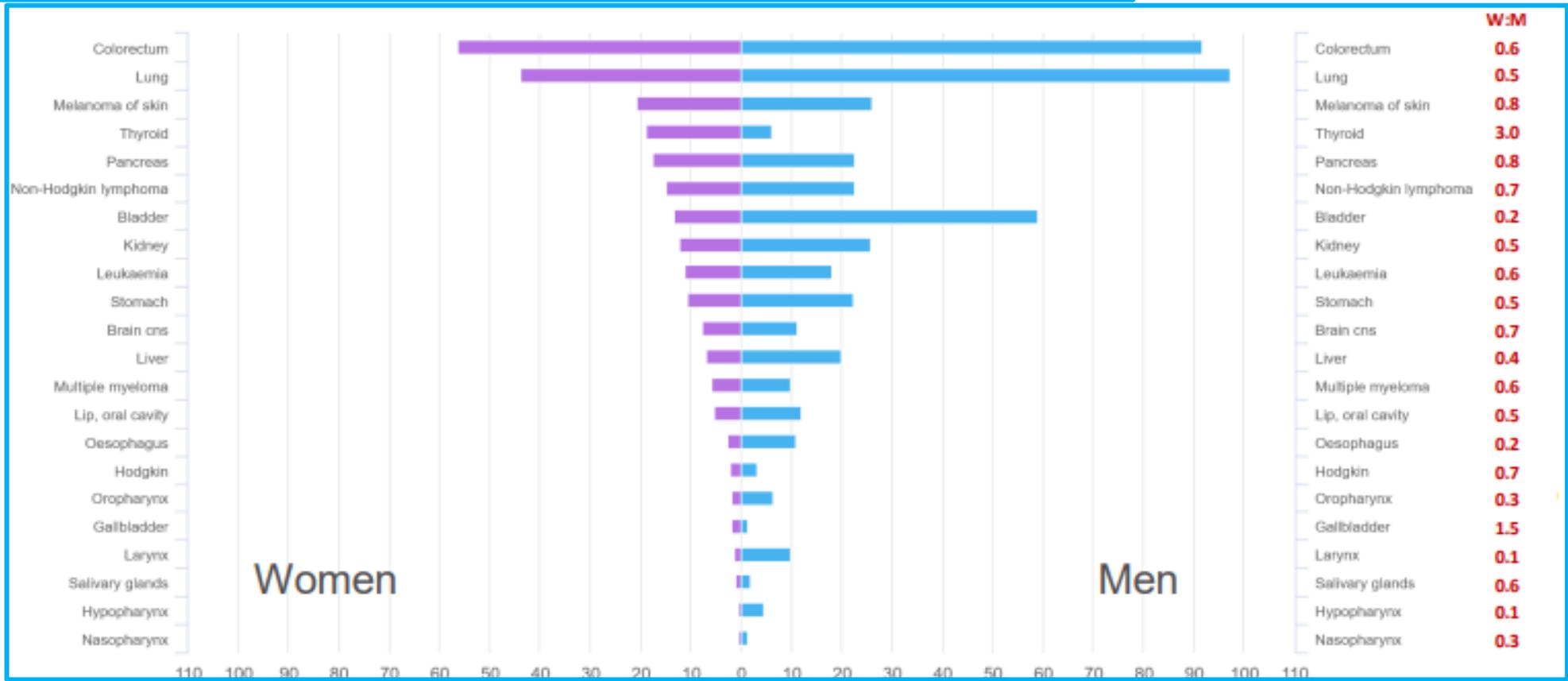
1 237 588 new cases

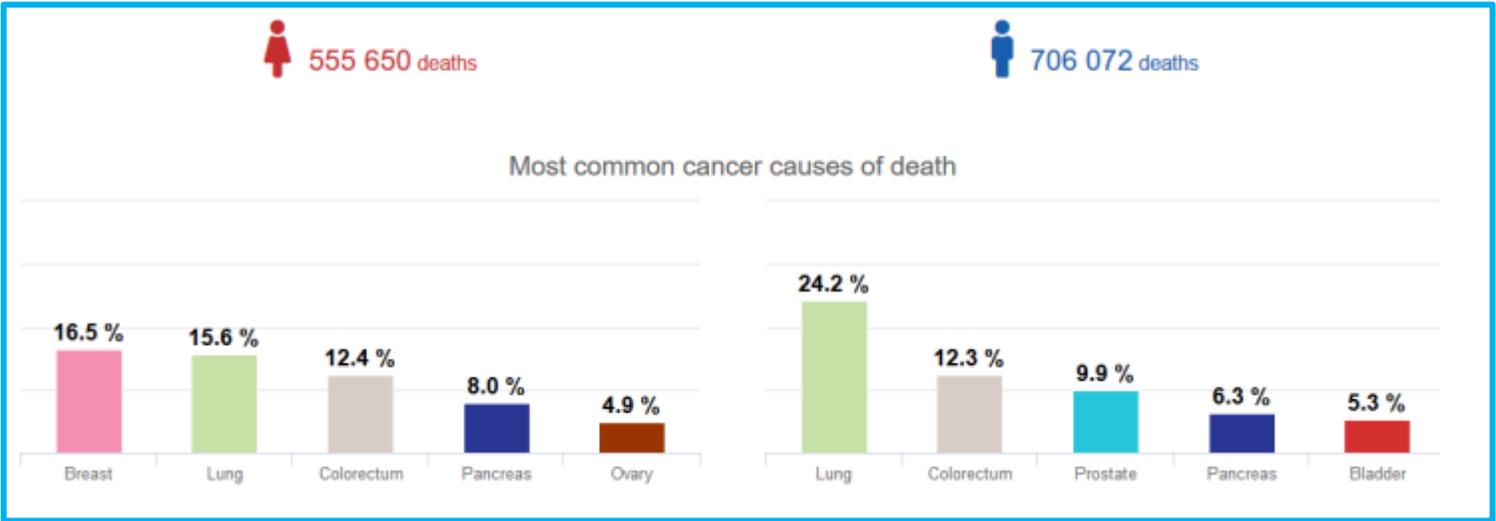
1 444 949 new cases

Most common cancers

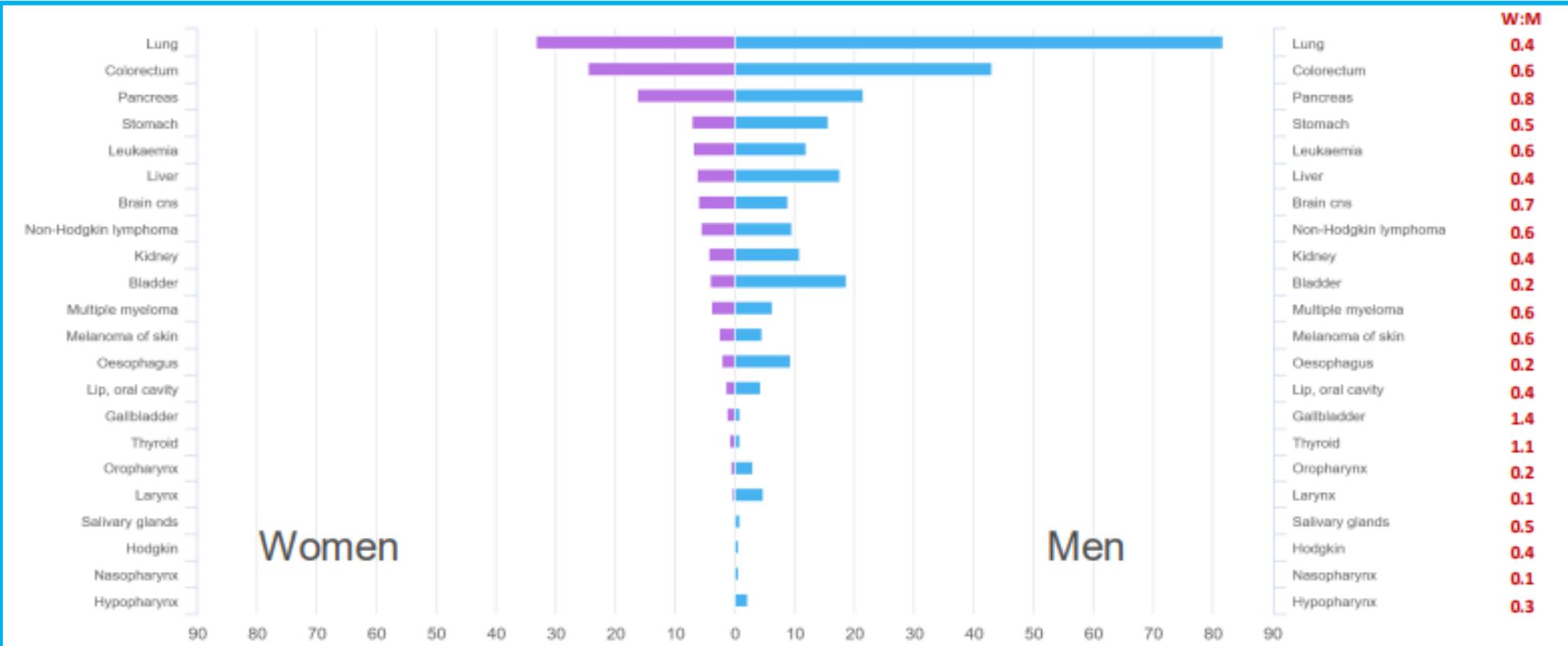


2020 Estimated Incidence in EU-27 JRC





2020 Estimated Mortality in EU-27 JRC





- 10. Women: breast feeding and hormone replacement therapy
- 11. Children to take part in vaccination programs: - HPV (for girls)
- 12. Take part in Screening programmes: - Bowel (men and women)
 - Breast (women)
 - Cervix (women)

Awareness:

- Lower cancer awareness for men compared to women (Davis et al, 2012).
- >3500 sample, 78% knew HPV provokes cervical cancer, 29% provokes penile cancer, 26% anal cancer + males less likely to have heard about HPV and HPV vaccine (Osazuwa-Peters et al., 2017).

Screening

- Lower willingness to participate in cancer screening among men, which increases when providing more information on screening process (Davis et al, 2012).
- Colorectal screening lower among men (Deding et al., 2017; White et al, 2018)

Diagnosis:

- Women have more diagnosis at earlier stage.
- Men less incisive in reporting symptoms → less early diagnoses (Rana et al, 2020).

Survival rates

- Lower survival rates in men for Colorectal cancer (Yang et al., 2017) and non-small cell Lung cancer (Agarwal et al, 2010).
- Worse survival rates in women for Bladder cancer (Saginala et al., 2020)

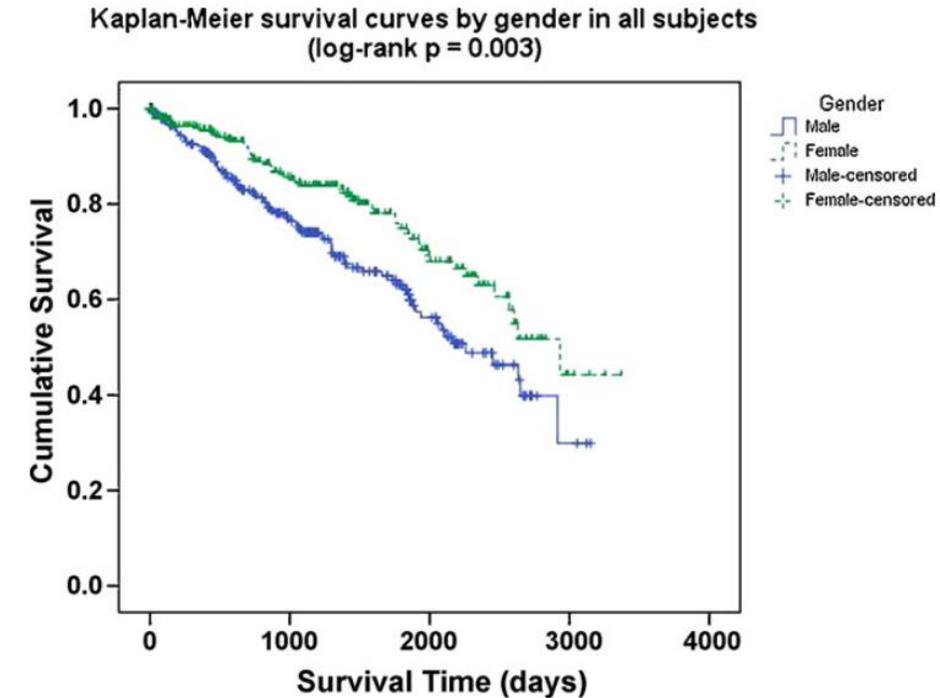


Fig. 2. Kaplan-Meier survival curves by gender in all subjects (log-rank $p = 0.003$).

Is there an inequality by Gender?

- **Prostate Cancer** - is number one male cancer
 - is number 1 or 2 male cancer killer
 - advanced stages are detrimental for QoL (osteoblastic M+))
(ADT=castration)
- ...But, yet no early detection / screening programme
- **HPV vaccination** - in girls is generally accepted
 - in boys now starting to be implemented
(penile cancer is rare but terrible!)

Transgender people and gender non-conforming people

Discrimination in healthcare:

- Austria: 13% trans respondents been refused medical care, 7% experienced violence in health (Markovic et al., 2021).
- Lack of guidelines for transgender people (Sterling & Garcia, 2021)

Risk factors in cancer care

- Cancer screening in transgender population lower → diagnosis at later stages (Scime, 2019)
- Trans men less likely to have undergone cervical cancer screening (Sterling & Garcia, 2021).
- Trans men and gender-nonconforming people less likely to have had a PAP-test in life (Tabaac et al, 2018)
- Trans women less likely to have had a Prostate-Specific Antigen test and less likely to discuss prostate issues with a physician (Sterling & Garcia, 2021)
- When changing documents from the assigned gender at birth to the actual gender, transgender people might stop receiving screening invitations for organs such as prostate or ovaries, and might not receive subsidies for this screening anymore



How to improve Men's cancers care?



PREVENTION

- Exposure to cigarettes, alcohol, toxic industrial agents, nutrition...
 - Is the same for Females, but Males care less, need for awareness
- Majority of penile cancers is about avoidable through vaccination
Avoid Chronic Infections (Circumcision) and Ultraviolet exposure
- Follow Southern European and Asian diets to reduce the chance of getting prostate cancer (avoid red meat and animal fat, eat more white meat, fish, vegetables, cooked tomatoes, soy, green tea) take Vit D -sunshine (?)

How to improve Men's cancers care?



EARLY DETECTION

- Awareness on self-examination for Penile and Testicular Ca
 - young men at risk for testicular (pubertas praecox, cryptorchidism)
- Prostate Cancer is asymptomatic, kills more men than breast cancer kills women.
- Extend screening programs to Prostate (and lung and gastric) cancer

Conclusions & future steps

- Gender differences in cancer care are a fact and some are due to men's mind.
- Studies on the differences between women and men, often ignore transgender individuals.
- Gender-neutral HPV vaccination.
- Improve existing (Br., CR and Cx.) screening programs. Extend the 2003 EU Council recommendations for screening
- Adapt screening calls for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.



Future actions:

- Awareness campaigns are needed.
- Programmes that target gender groups, e.g. males, should be promoted accounting for specific differences.
- Healthcare workforce should pay attention to the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming people.





Thank you for your attention

Aknowledgement: Enea Venegoni and Richard Price, ECO

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