

6.1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Table 6.1. Summary of incidence and mortality statistics: non-melanoma skin cancer

	INCIDENT CASES			DEATHS (ICD-10)		
	males	females	both sexes	males	females	both sexes
All cancers (invasive, in situ and uncertain) (ICD-O-2 C44)						
1997 cases	4070	3746	7816	21	12	33
% of all cancers	38.6%	34.4%	36.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%
<i>Incidence and mortality rates (per 100,000 persons per year)</i>						
crude rate	224.9	204.0	214.4	1.2	0.7	0.9
World age-standardised rate	171.6	128.2		0.8	0.3	
European age-standardised rate	260.5	191.7		1.3	0.5	
cumulative risk (0-74)	18.4%	13.9%		0.1%	0.0%	
mortality/incidence ratio	0.014	0.012	0.013			
Time trends (all cancers)						
1994 cases	3422	3165	6587	23	10	33
1995 cases	3589	3300	6889	26	8	34
1996 cases	3845	3544	7389	19	3	22
1997 cases	4070	3746	7816	21	12	33
1994-1997 average	3732	3439	7170	22	8	31
annual % change 1994-97	+4.9%	+5.0%	+5.0%	-8.2%	-10.8%	-7.9%
95% confidence limits of trend	(4.4%; 5.5%)	(4.4%; 5.7%)	(4.4%; 5.5%)	(-21.8%; 7.6%)	(-53.2%; 69.9%)	(-28.6%; 18.7%)
Invasive cancers only (ICD-10 C44)						
1997 cases	3695	3008	6703	21	12	33
% of all invasive cancers	35.0%	27.6%	31.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%
<i>Incidence and mortality rates (per 100,000 persons per year)</i>						
crude rate	204.2	163.8	183.8	1.2	0.7	0.9
World age-standardised rate	155.7	104.1		0.8	0.3	
European age-standardised rate	236.5	155.0		1.3	0.5	
cumulative risk (0-74)	16.6%	11.3%		0.1%	0.0%	
mortality/incidence ratio	0.006	0.004	0.005			

Non-melanoma skin cancer is by far the commonest of all cancers (36% of the total) (Table 6.1), but is rarely fatal, and so is less of a public health concern than cancers such as lung, bowel and breast. The incidence of these cancers has been increasing significantly since registration began, at 5% per year. We cannot tell without further study if this is due to a real increase in incidence rate, increased rates of diagnosis due to changes in patterns of presentation and/or management, or improved efficiency of registration.

6.2. AGE AND SEX PROFILE

Table 6.2. Annual average number of cases, age-specific incidence rate and relative age-specific rate for non-melanoma skin cancers, 1994 to 1997

	MALES			FEMALES		
	cases	cases per 100,000	relative rate	cases	cases per 100,000	relative rate
0-4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
5-9	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
10-14	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
15-19	1	1	0.1	2	1	0.2
20-24	5	3	0.3	6	4	0.1
25-29	13	10	0.6	12	9	0.1
30-34	20	16	0.6	26	20	0.3
35-39	45	36	0.9	45	35	0.4
40-44	81	68	1.0	77	64	0.5
45-49	122	109	1.0	112	102	0.6
50-54	222	238	1.1	181	200	0.8
55-59	287	372	1.0	233	309	0.9
60-64	439	642	1.0	311	450	1.0
65-69	527	873	0.9	460	688	1.2
70-74	674	1347	1.0	563	905	1.2
75-79	586	1661	1.0	541	1107	1.2
80-84	442	2116	1.1	487	1420	1.4
>85	270	2595	1.2	385	1623	1.6
all ages	3732	208	1.0	3439	189	1.0

Non-melanoma skin cancer has a predominantly elderly age profile (Table 6.2). The median age for skin cancer was 71, compared to 67 for all cancers. Sixty-nine percent of skin cancer patients were 65 or over, compared to 61% of all cancer patients.

6.3. SUBSITES

Most skin cancers were on the face – 67% in men and 54% in women (Table 6.3). Cancer of the leg was the next most common site in women (25%), and that of the ear in men (15%).

Table 6.3. Subsites of non-melanoma skin cancer

		MALES		FEMALES	
		cases	% of total	cases	% of total
lip	C44.0	153	3.8%	91	2.4%
eyelid	C44.1	248	6.1%	204	5.4%
external ear	C44.2	625	15.4%	59	1.6%
face	C44.3	1679	41.3%	1654	44.2%
scalp, neck	C44.4	387	9.5%	224	6.0%
trunk	C44.5	311	7.6%	200	5.3%
upper limb	C44.6	462	11.4%	357	9.5%
lower limb	C44.7	171	4.2%	925	24.7%
other and unspecified	C44.9	34	0.8%	32	0.9%
all cases		4070		3746	

6.4. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

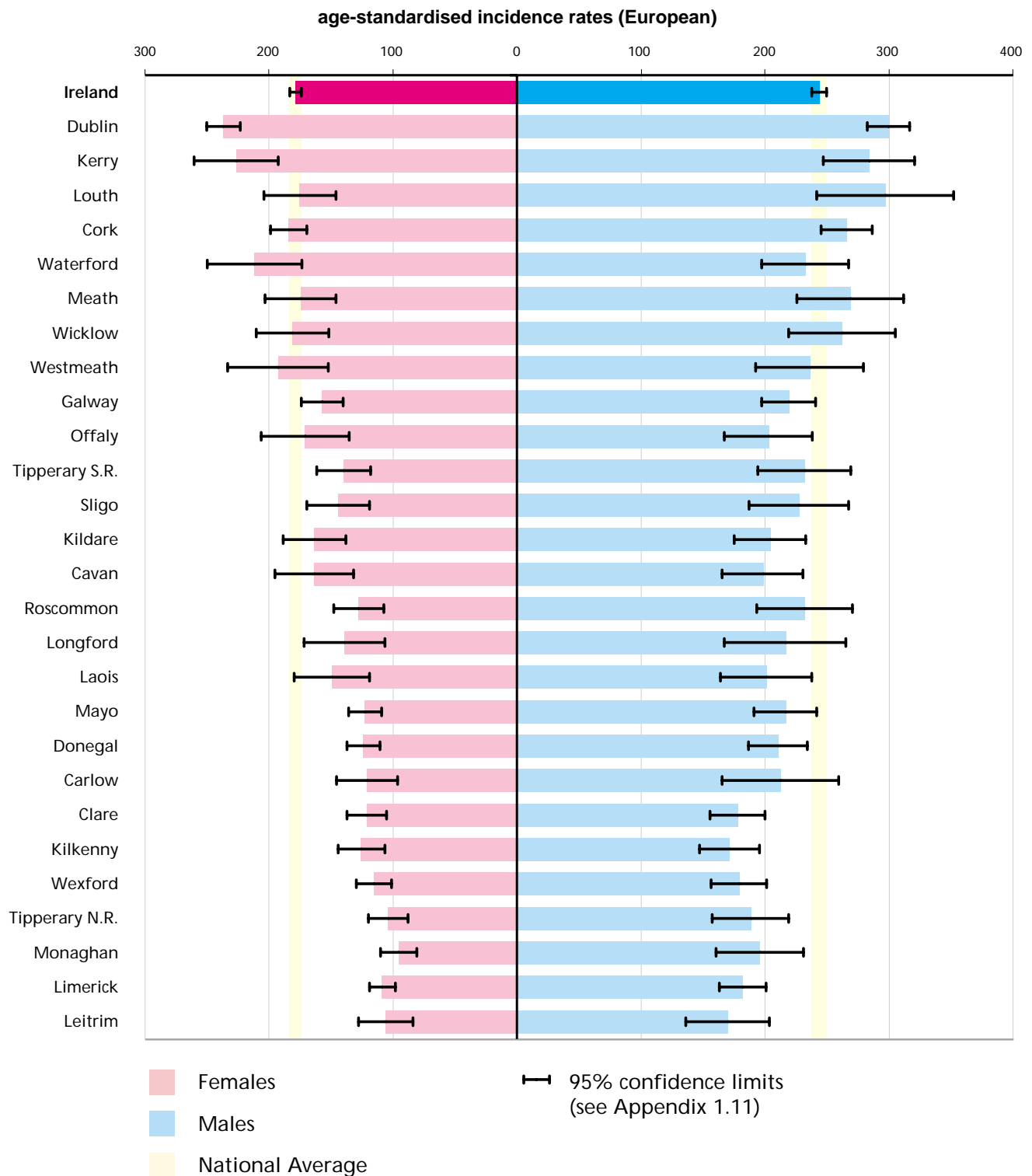
INTERNATIONAL

Completeness of registration of skin cancers varies considerably between registries, and policies on the registration of multiple skin cancers are also variable. For this reason, international comparisons of incidence are unreliable, and no figures are presented here.

NATIONAL

The highest non-melanoma skin cancer rates were found in Dublin and Kerry for both men and women (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1. Age-adjusted (European population) rates and 95% confidence limits by county, 1994 to 1997: non-melanoma skin cancer



6.5. BASIS OF DIAGNOSIS AND HISTOLOGICAL TYPE

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) was the predominant cell type (58% of total) (Table 6.4), while squamous carcinomas (SCC) made up 40%, of which about one-third were in situ cancers (Bowen's disease and related conditions).

Table 6.4. Morphology

Description	ICD-O-2 code	1997		1994-1997 AVERAGE	
		cases	% of total	cases	% of total
basal cell carcinoma, NOS	8090/3	3995	51.1%	3701	51.6%
squamous cell carcinoma, NOS	8070/3	1884	24.1%	1741	24.3%
Bowen's disease	8081/2	672	8.6%	609	8.5%
squamous cell carcinoma in situ, NOS	8070/2	375	4.8%	322	4.5%
multicentric basal cell carcinoma	8091/3	375	4.8%	304	4.2%
squamous cell carcinoma large cell, keratinizing	8071/3	195	2.5%	192	2.7%
basosquamous carcinoma	8094/3	117	1.5%	82	1.1%
carcinoma in situ, NOS	8010/2	58	0.7%	65	0.9%
carcinoma, NOS	8010/3	36	0.5%	34	0.5%
malignant neoplasm	8000/3	38	0.5%	28	0.4%
epithelioma malignant	8011/3	2	0.0%	13	0.2%
dermatofibrosarcoma, NOS	8832/3	7	0.1%	12	0.2%
basal cell carcinoma, morphea	8092/3	6	0.1%	7	0.1%
verrucous carcinoma, NOS	8051/3	8	0.1%	7	0.1%
Merkel cell tumour	8247/3	5	0.1%	7	0.1%
squamous cell carcinoma spindle cell	8074/3	3	0.0%	4	0.1%
all other types		40	0.5%	45	0.6%
Behaviour					
uncertain		9	0.1%	7	0.1%
in situ		1106	14.2%	997	13.9%
invasive		6701	85.7%	6167	86.0%
all cancers		7816		7171	100.0%

6.6. TREATMENT

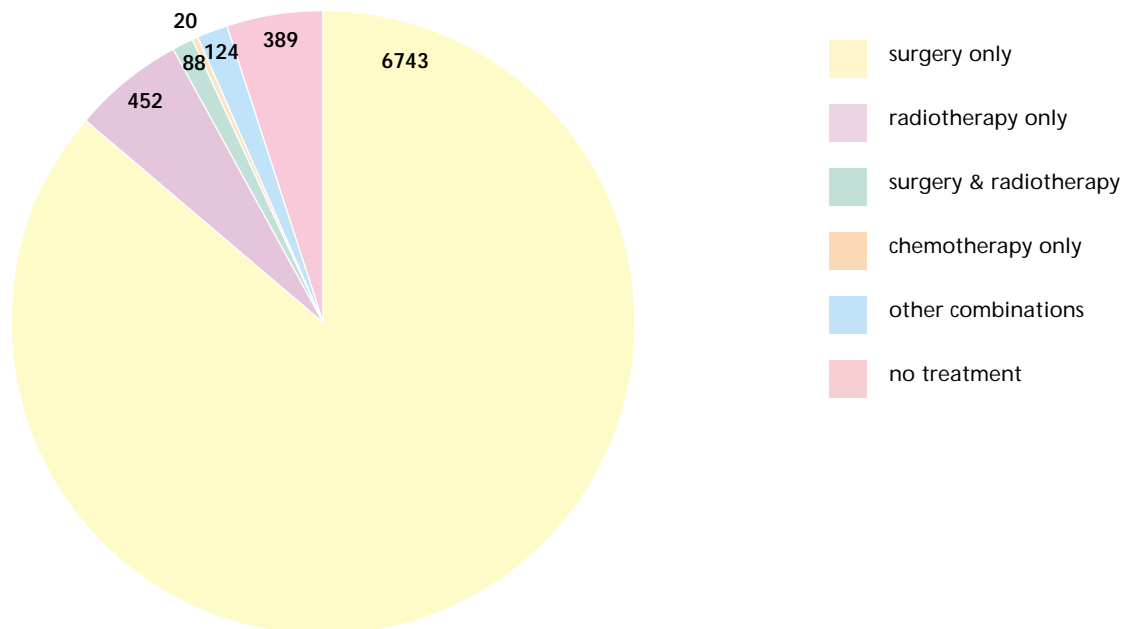
Surgical removal was the treatment of choice in 88% of cases, while 7% were treated by radiotherapy (Table 6.5, Figure 6.2). For 1997, the percentage treated by radiotherapy was lower than the 1994 to 1997 average, and, overall, surgery appears to be replacing radiotherapy in the treatment of these cancers. Treatment of 9% of BCCs was by radiotherapy, compared to 4% of SCCs.

Table 6.5. Treatment summary

TREATMENT	NUMBER OF 1997 CASES TREATED	TRENDS IN % OF CASES TREATED			
		1997	1996	1995	1994
surgery	6880	88.0%	87.0%	84.6%	83.9%
chemotherapy	22	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	1.0%
hormone	1	0.0%	0.0%		
radiotherapy	545	7.0%	7.7%	7.0%	9.1%
other treatment	121	1.5%	3.1%	1.5%	3.4%
all cases treated	7427	95.0%	95.7%	95.0%	94.4%
no treatment	389	5.0%	4.3%	5.0%	5.6%
all cases	7816	7816	7389	6889	6587

Figure 6.2. Frequent treatment combinations

Note: numbers indicated refer to the number of cases treated



6.7. STAGE

Stage was not recorded for non-melanoma skin cancer.

6.8. SURVIVAL

Survival was not calculated for non-melanoma skin cancer.