

CHAPTER 10

Cancer of the Bile Ducts

James E. Everhart, M.D., M.P.H.

For this report, intrahepatic and extrahepatic bile duct cancers were combined (see Appendix 1 for ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes). Substantial differences between them are noted.

In 2004, 22 percent of bile duct cancer was coded intrahepatic and 45 percent extrahepatic; nearly all the remainder did not have a location specified. Rates were much higher in the oldest age group, with 74 percent of cases occurring at age 65 or older. Age-adjusted rates were highest among Hispanics and Asians (Table 1). Males had a higher rate and slightly higher number of cases than females. Incidence increased modestly between 1979 and 2004 (about 22 percent), all of which could be accounted for by an increase in the incidence of intrahepatic bile duct cancer. Five-year

survival did not improve and was about 10 percent for the entire period (Figure 1). There were too few outpatient or inpatient diagnoses to draw inferences about medical care (Table 2), but hospitalization rates were relatively constant at about 5 per 100,000 U.S. population (Figure 2).

Because of low survival, bile duct cancer mortality was similar to incidence. As underlying cause, there were 4,954 deaths in 2004 and nearly 33,000 YPLL prior to age 75 years (Table 3). Rates were highest in the oldest age group. Age-adjusted mortality rates were slightly higher for whites and for males. Death rates for bile duct cancer rose 39 percent between 1979 and 2004 (Figure 3).

Table 1. Bile Duct Cancer: Number of Cases and Incidence Rates by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sex, 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS		Number of Cases	INCIDENCE PER 100,000	
			Unadjusted	Age-Adjusted
AGE (Years)	Under 15	—	—	—
	15–44	266	0.2	—
	45–64	1,655	2.4	—
	65+	4,569	13.4	—
RACE/ETHNICITY	Non-Hispanic White	4,859	2.5	2.1
	Non-Hispanic Black	523	1.5	2.1
	Hispanic	519	1.3	2.8
	Asian/Pacific Islander	332	2.7	3.3
	American Indian/Alaska Native	—	—	—
SEX	Female	3,051	2.1	2.0
	Male	3,133	2.2	2.7
TOTAL		6,186	2.2	—

SOURCE: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program

Figure 1. Bile Duct Cancer: Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates and 5-Year Survival Rates, 1979–2004



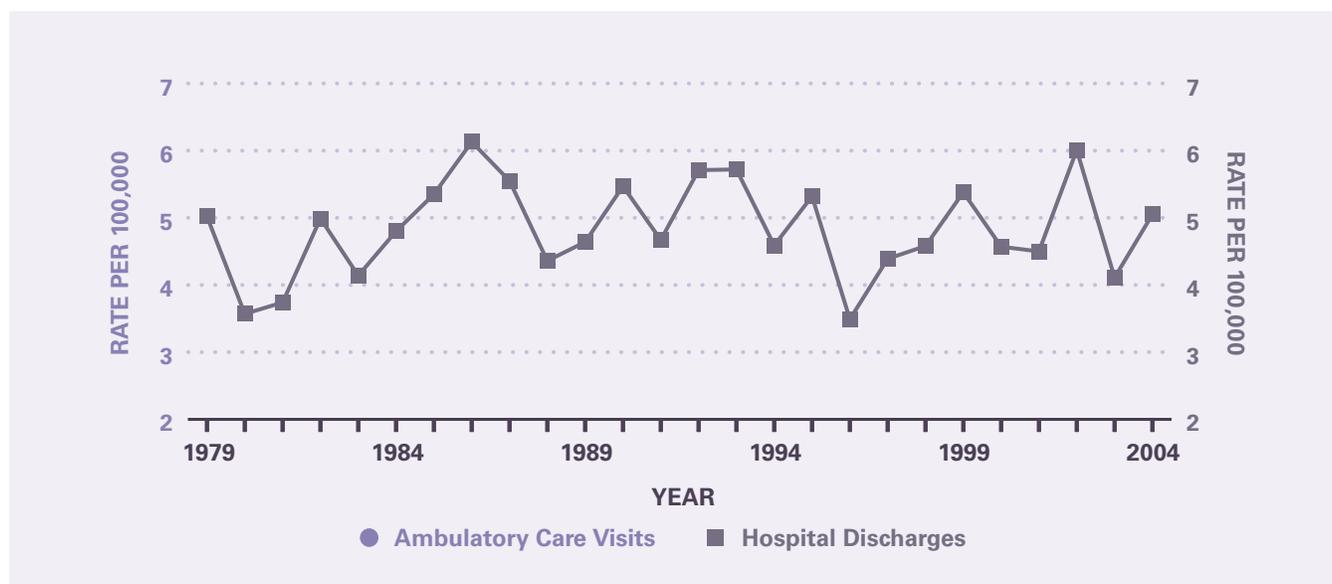
SOURCE: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program

Table 2. Bile Duct Cancer: Number and Age-Adjusted Rates of Ambulatory Care Visits and Hospital Discharges With First-Listed and All-Listed Diagnoses by Age, Race, and Sex in the United States, 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	AMBULATORY CARE VISITS				HOSPITAL DISCHARGES				
	First-Listed Diagnosis		All-Listed Diagnoses		First-Listed Diagnosis		All-Listed Diagnoses		
	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	Number in Thousands	Rate per 100,000	
AGE (Years)	Under 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15–44	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	1
	45–64	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	7
	65+	—	—	—	—	6	17	11	30
RACE	White	—	—	—	—	7	3	14	5
	Black	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	5
SEX	Female	—	—	—	—	4	3	8	5
	Male	—	—	—	—	5	4	9	7
TOTAL		—	—	—	—	9	3	17	6

SOURCE: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) (3-year average, 2003–2005), and Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Nationwide Inpatient Sample (HCUP NIS)

Figure 2. Bile Duct Cancer: Age-Adjusted Rates of Ambulatory Care Visits and Hospital Discharges With All-Listed Diagnoses in the United States, 1979–2004 (Ambulatory Care Visit Data Unavailable)



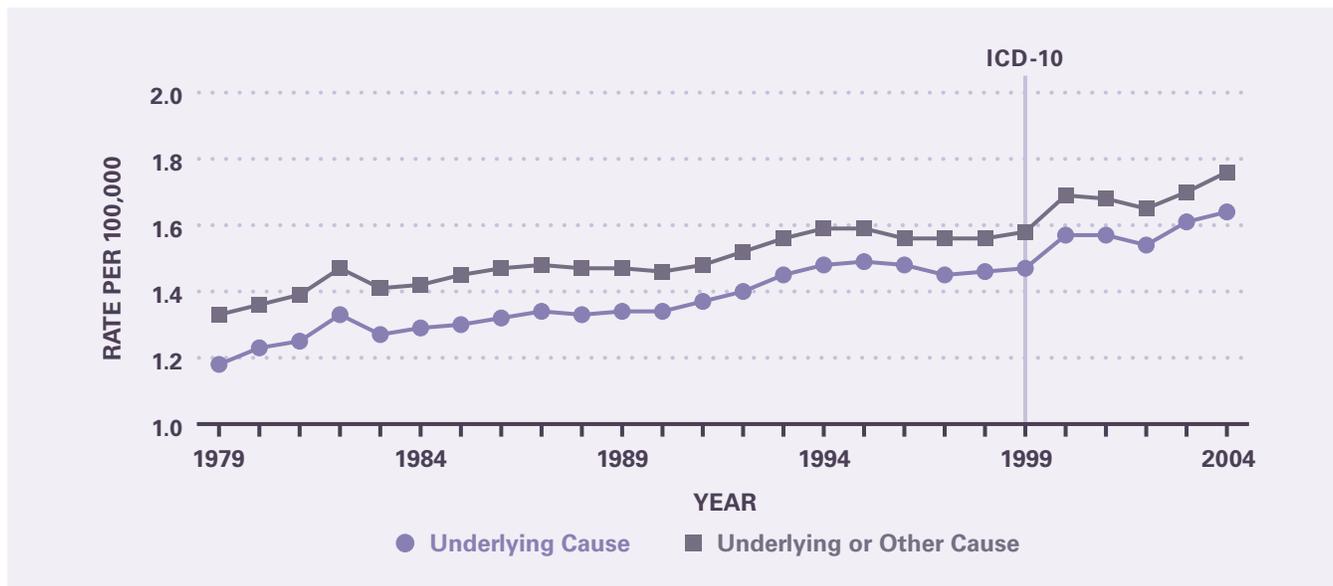
SOURCE: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) (averages 1992–1993, 1994–1996, 1997–1999, 2000–2002, 2003–2005), and National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS)

Table 3. Bile Duct Cancer: Number and Age-Adjusted Rates of Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost (to Age 75) by Age, Race, and Sex in the United States, 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	UNDERLYING CAUSE			UNDERLYING OR OTHER CAUSE		
	Number of Deaths	Rate per 100,000	Years of Potential Life Lost in Thousands	Number of Deaths	Rate per 100,000	
AGE (Years)	Under 15	2	0.0	0.1	3	0.0
	15–44	143	0.1	5.2	148	0.1
	45–64	1,245	1.8	21.9	1,308	1.9
	65+	3,564	9.8	5.7	3,855	10.6
RACE	White	4,348	1.7	27.6	4,657	1.8
	Black	366	1.4	3.4	401	1.5
SEX	Female	2,554	1.5	15.1	2,711	1.6
	Male	2,400	1.9	17.8	2,603	2.1
TOTAL		4,954	1.7	32.9	5,314	1.8

SOURCE: Vital Statistics of the United States

Figure 3. Bile Duct Cancer: Age-Adjusted Rates of Death in the United States, 1979–2004



SOURCE: Vital Statistics of the United States