

[Hong Kong]

Cancers in Hong Kong

William FOO*¹

The number of new cases of cancers in Hong Kong is increasing. In 2009 there were close to 26,000 new cases. The age-standardized incidence rate was 246×10^{-5} . The corresponding rate in the USA was 300 and Asia as a whole 153. In the same year there were 12,800 cancer deaths. Cancer remains the top ranking cause of death in Hong Kong (second is cardiovascular). This can be accounted for by the aging population and also the expanding population over the years.

The pattern of different cancers is closely approaching that in the West. Thus the incidence (age-standardised incidence rate) of cancers of the breast, colorectum, endometrium and prostate is on the rise, while those of nasopharynx, cervix

uteri, larynx, stomach and bladder are falling. This changing pattern is largely attributable to the change in life style, mostly since the end of the Second World War. In the past 100 years Hong Kong became urbanized rapidly, changing from a quiet fishing village to a modern metropolis.

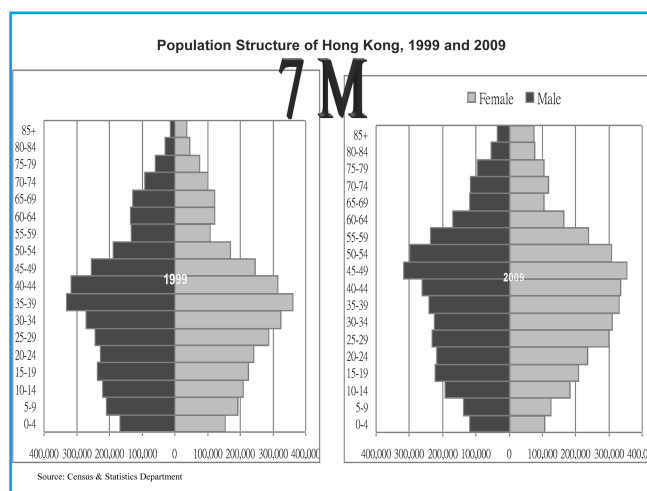
Cancer treatment in Hong Kong largely follows those in the West. Multiple specialties and disciplines are involved. Adjuvant chemotherapy and radiotherapy is common practice. Targeted agents are available. The survival rates are comparable to current world standards.

The rising cost of medicine remains an important issue.

Cancers in Hong Kong

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The work load

Rank Site	No. in 2009	No. in 1999 (<i>rank</i>)
1 Lung	4,365	3,707 (1)
2 Colorectal	4,335	3,024 (2)
3 Breast	2,962	1,796 (3)
4 Liver	1,832	1,572 (4)
5 Prostate	1,484	597 (9)
All cancers	25,977	20,525
Crude Rate	372	310
ASR	246	261

Data from Hong Kong Cancer Registry

The work force

- Multi-disciplinary management.
- Clinical Oncologist >110.
- Medical Oncologist > 20.
- Oncology centres in 6 public hospitals and 4 private hospitals.
- Linear accelerators 36
- Most chemotherapy agents
- Most approved targeted therapy agents

Top 10 in Female

Rank	Site	New cases	% of all cancers
1	Breast	2,945	24.0%
2	Colorectum	1,930	15.7%
3	Lung	1,517	12.3%
4	Corpus uteri	667	5.4%
5	Thyroid	507	4.1%
6	Ovary etc.	460	3.7%
7	Cervix	453	3.7%
8	Liver	447	3.6%
9	Non-melanoma skin	399	3.2%
10	Stomach	396	3.2%

Data from Hong Kong Cancer Registry

Top 10 in Male

Rank	Site	New cases	% of all cancers
1	Lung	2,848	20.8%
2	Colorectum	2,405	17.6%
3	Prostate	1,484	10.8%
4	Liver	1,385	10.1%
5	Stomach	682	5.0%
6	Nasopharynx	678	5.0%
7	Non-melanoma skin	412	3.0%
8	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	401	2.9%
9	Oesophagus	345	2.5%
10	Lip, oral cavity and pharynx <small>except nasopharynx</small>	333	2.4%

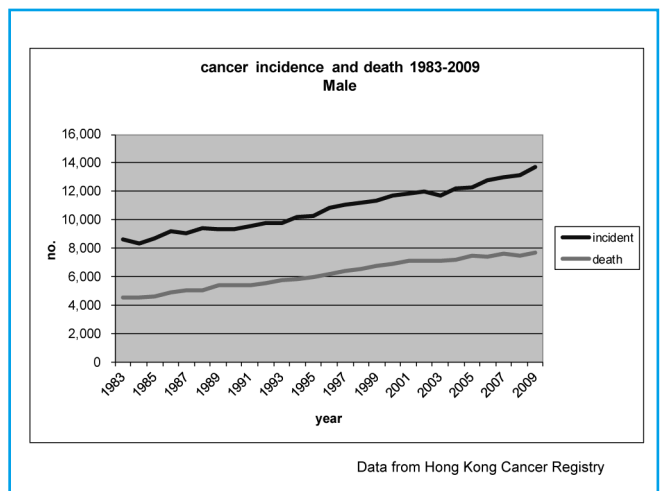
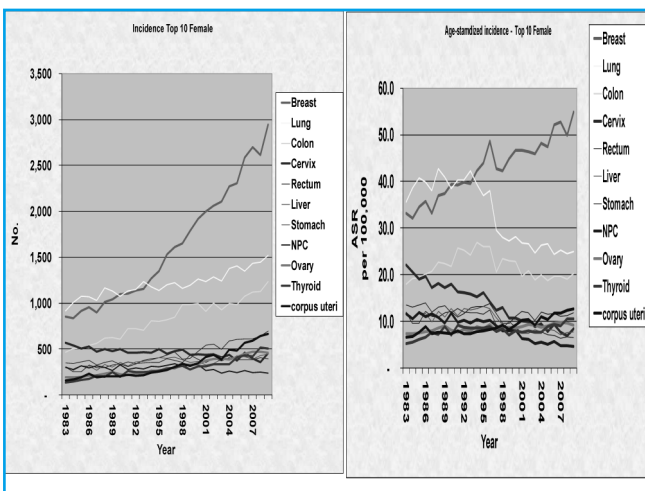
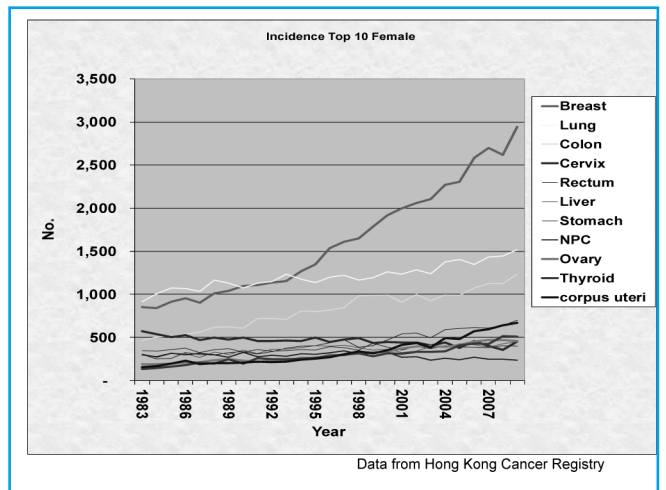
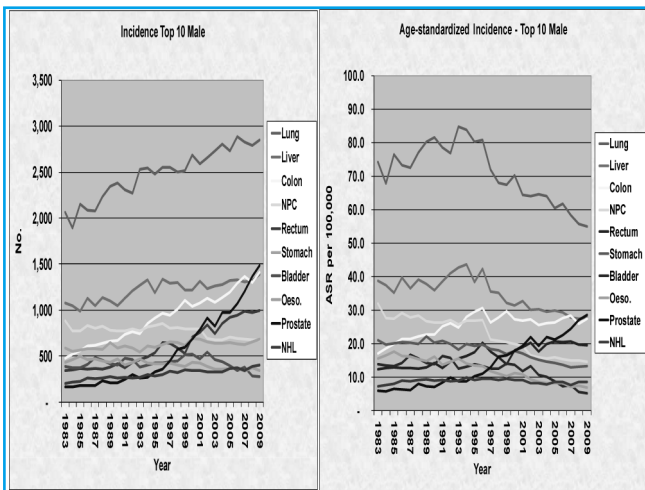
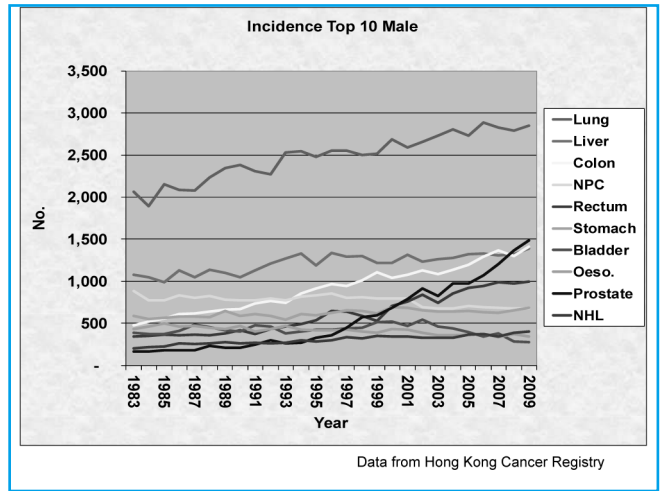
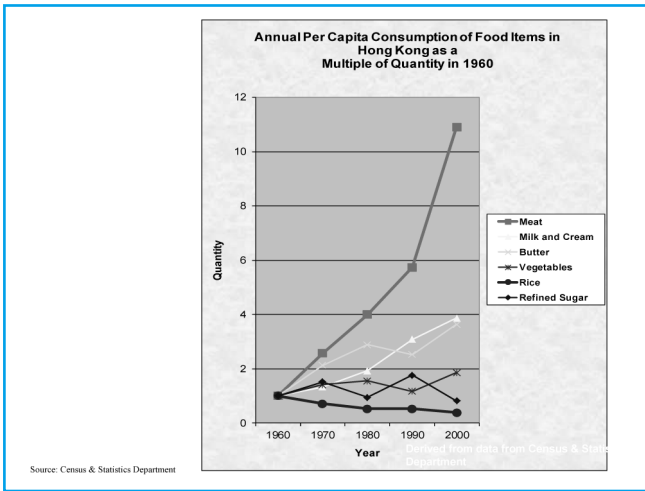
Data from Hong Kong Cancer Registry

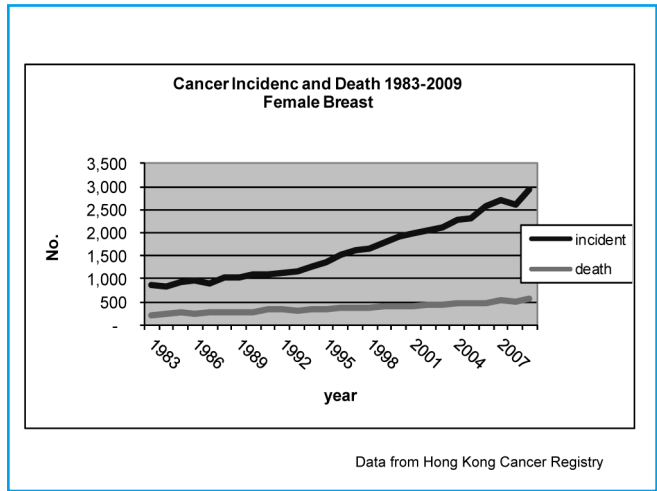
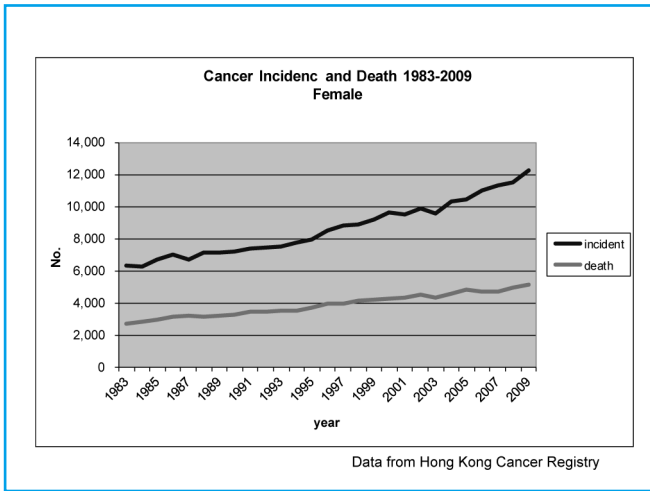
Cancers on the Rise (by ASR)

- Female Breast
- Prostate
- Colon and rectum in both sex
- Endometrium
- Ovary

Cancers on way out (by ASR)

- Lung
- Nasopharynx
- Larynx
- Stomach
- Oesophagus
- Liver
- Bladder
- Cervix





Breast Cancer

- Multidisciplinary care
- Diagnostic imaging
- Breast conserving treatment / mastectomy
- Sentinel node biopsy
- Reconstruction
- Adjuvant chemotherapy, endocrine therapy, trastuzumab, radiotherapy

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer

- Mostly adenocarcinoma (>80%)
- Advanced stage
- VAT-S available
- Platinum-containing chemotherapy
- Tyrosine kinase inhibitors for EGFR-mutated cancers

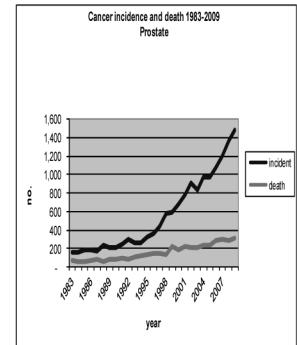
Colorectum

Colorectal Cancer

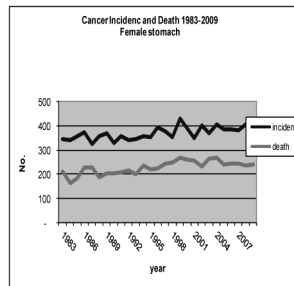
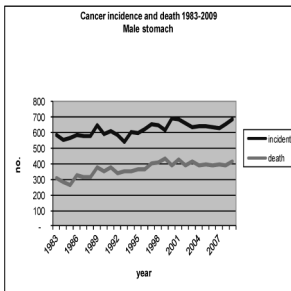
- Mostly stage II and III.
- More TME (Total Mesorectal Excision) for rectal cancers.
- Adjuvant chemotherapy widely available – Fluoropyrimidine-based +/- oxaliplatin.
- Adjuvant radiotherapy.

Prostate

- 'Over-diagnosed' –PSA
- Radical / laparoscopic / robotic prostatectomy.
- Radical radiotherapy – IMRT / Helical RT.
- LHRH analogues



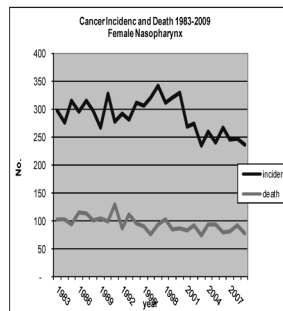
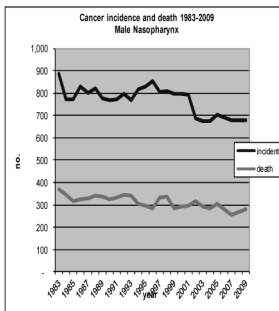
Stomach



Stomach Cancer

- No major improvement.
- Laparoscopic surgery available
- More adjuvant chemotherapy – capecitabine, oxaliplatin, S-1.

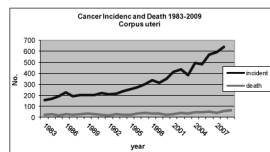
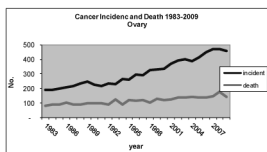
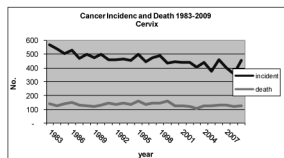
Nasopharynx



Nasopharynx

- Falling incidence
- Chemoradiation since early 2000s
- Did not improve results very much.
- Less toxicity since introduction of IMRT in the 2000s

Gynaecological



Gynaecological

- Less cervix, more endometrial and ovarian.
- Gynaecological oncology specialists.
- Chemoradiation or surgery for cervical
- Adjuvant chemotherapy for ovarian widely available.

Conclusion

- Westernized lifestyle – Westernized cancers.
- ‘Old world cancers’ outgoing.
- Evidence-based cancer treatment.
- Cost of cancer rapidly rising – a socio-political issue.