

lion respectively. The age standardized rate (ASR) for all cancers was 79.7 per million. (Figure 3.2, Table 3.2 & 3.3)

Leukemia was most common (ASR 42.6, male = 282, 28% vs. female = 247, 24%) followed by CNS tumors (ASR 7.6, male = 53, 5.3% vs. female 49, 4.9%): medulloblastoma and astrocytoma being the most common comprising 3.2% and 2.5% respectively. Leukemia and CNS tumors constituted 63.1% of pediatric cancers and lymphoma was third (ASR = 6.4, male = 68, 6.8% vs. female 22, 2.2%). The ratio of non-Hodgkin lymphoma to Hodgkin disease was 1.9:1. Neuroblastoma (ASR 4.6) and retinoblastoma (ASR 4.2) ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, followed by soft tissue malignancies (ASR 3.6), bone tumors, (ASR 2.4), renal tumors (ASR 2.6), liver (ASR 2.4), germ cell (ASR 2.3) and nasopharyngeal carcinoma (ASR 0.3)

Age

The average age-specific incidence rate for each age and age group of the three calendar periods

of observation show higher cancer rates for the young (younger than 5 years of age) particularly, leukemia, sympathetic nervous system, retinoblastoma, renal tumor and older age group for central nervous system and bone tumors. (Figure 3.3, 3.4)

Age and ICCC group

Sixty-three percent of the cancers found among children were leukemia and malignant tumors of central nervous system. The relative percentage, however, varied by age group. (Figure 3.4) Leukemia comprised of 53 percent of all childhood cancer and was the most common diagnosis for those younger than 5, 5-9 and 10-14 years of age but the relative proportion of it decreased as age increased, from 56 percent in those younger than 5 years of aged to 49 percent in adolescents 10-14 years of age. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia comprised 74 percent of all leukemia.

Among infant aged below 1 (N = 80, 8.1%), leukemia is the most common cancer (47.5%) with

similar frequency of ALL and ANLL. The other common cancers are retinoblastoma and neuroblastoma.

Commentary

The incidence of childhood malignancy in Thailand is lower in comparison to Western and regional countries (Parkin, *et al.*, 1988; Parkin, *et al.*, 1998; Ries, *et al.*, 1999). However, it is higher than the incidence rate registered during 1988-1994 (Vattanasapt, 1999) but lower than the incidence during 1995-1997 (Wiangnon, *et al.*, 2003a; Wiangnon, *et al.*, 2003b). However, this is the registration of cancer cases from 20 centers with complete coverage of cases instead of extrapolation of the incidences from the 5 main registries in Chiang Mai, Lampang, Khon Kaen, Bangkok and Songkhla. The diagnoses were higher histologically confirmed than the previous reports. Leukemia was the most common cancer in Thai children. Lymphoma is much lower than that of Western countries. However, duration of case collection is only 1 year.

Figure 3.3 Incidence of childhood cancer by age, both sexes, 2003

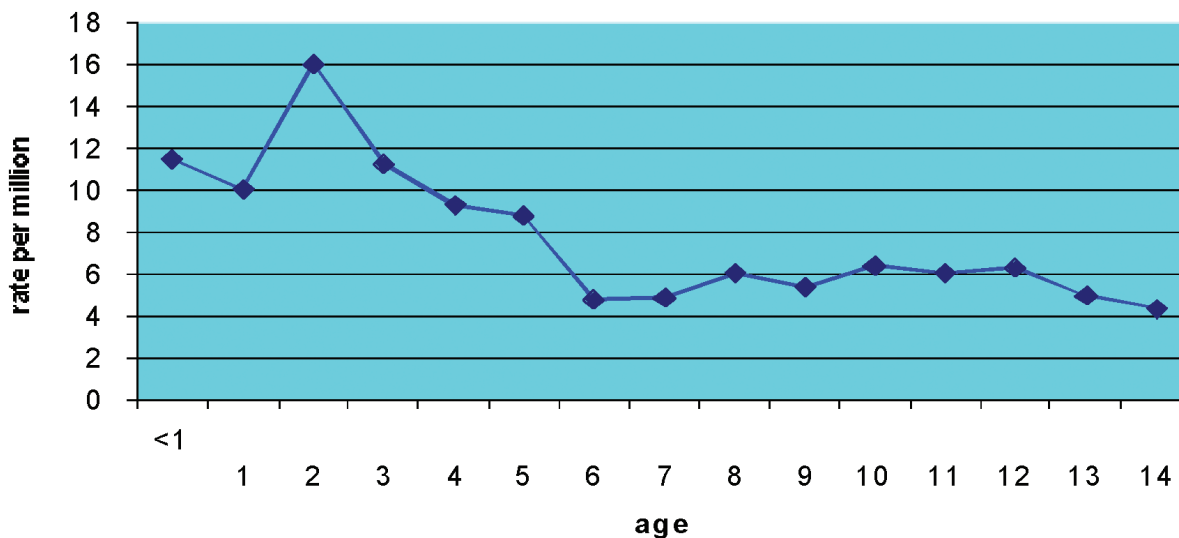


Figure 3.4 Age-specific incidence rates for childhood cancer by ICCC group, both sexes, 2003

