

## Cancer risk in older people living with human immunodeficiency virus infection in the United States

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### Key points:

Cancer risk in 183,542 older people living with HIV infection (PLWH) was evaluated using data from the HIV/AIDS Cancer Match Study. Relative risk of most cancers decreased with age, but absolute risks were higher for some cancers.

**Running title:** Cancer risk in older HIV-infected people

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cancer risk is increased in people living with HIV (PLWH). Improved survival has led to an aging of PLWH. We evaluated the cancer risk in older PLWH (age  $\geq 50$  years).

**Methods:** We included data from the HIV/AIDS Cancer Match Study (1996-2012) and evaluated risk of Kaposi sarcoma (KS), non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), Hodgkin lymphoma, and cervical, anal, lung, liver, oral cavity/pharyngeal, breast, prostate, and colon cancers in older PLWH compared to the general population by calculating the standardized incidence ratios (SIRs) and excess absolute risks (EARs). Cancer risk by time since HIV diagnosis was estimated using Poisson regression.

**Results:** We identified 10,371 cancers among 183,542 older PLWH. Risk was significantly increased for KS (SIR=103.34), NHL (SIR=3.05), Hodgkin lymphoma (SIR=7.61), and cervical (SIR=2.02), anal (SIR=14.00), lung (SIR=1.71), liver (SIR=2.91), and oral cavity/pharyngeal (SIR=1.66) cancers, and reduced for breast (SIR=0.61), prostate (SIR=0.47), and colon (SIR=0.63) cancers. SIRs declined with age for all cancers; however, EARs increased with age for anal, lung, liver, and oral cavity/pharyngeal cancers. Cancer risk was highest for most cancers within 5 years after HIV diagnosis; risk decreased with increasing time since HIV diagnosis for KS, NHL, lung cancer, and Hodgkin lymphoma.

**Conclusions:** Cancer risk is elevated among older PLWH. Although SIRs decrease with age, EARs are higher for some cancers, reflecting a greater absolute excess in cancer incidence among older PLWH. High risk in the first 5 years after HIV diagnosis for some cancers highlights the need for early HIV diagnosis and rapid treatment initiation.

**Key words:** HIV, cancer, aging, epidemiology

## INTRODUCTION

People living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection (PLWH) have an increased cancer risk due to HIV-induced immunosuppression, co-infections with oncogenic viruses, and high prevalence of behavioral risk factors for cancer such as smoking [1-10]. Besides the AIDS-defining cancers (ADCs), i.e. Kaposi sarcoma (KS), certain non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHLs), and cervical cancer, the risks of some non-AIDS defining cancers (NADCs), including lung, liver, anal, and oral cavity/pharyngeal cancers, and Hodgkin lymphoma are also increased [2, 5-10].

The introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has led to a steady increase in the life expectancy of PLWH [11]. Consequently, the number of older PLWH in the US has also increased. In 2014, approximately 44% PLWH in the US were aged  $\geq 50$  years old, and 17% of new HIV diagnoses were made among  $\geq 50$  year-olds [12, 13]. Because of improved immunity due to HAART, rates of ADCs have declined over the past two decades [7, 14, 15]. However, rates of many NADCs increase with age. It is unclear whether age-related immune senescence in the setting of HIV-related immunosuppression will result in particularly elevated cancer rates among older PLWH.

PLWH aged  $\geq 50$  years are a heterogeneous group that includes long-term survivors who have lived with HIV infection for many years, and newly diagnosed individuals; whether cancer risk varies based on duration of HIV infection is uncertain. Prolonged immunosuppression in those with long-term HIV infection may increase cancer risk. Alternatively, people newly diagnosed with HIV infection at an older age may have more severe immunosuppression and a consequent high risk for cancer. People who are diagnosed with HIV at older ages may present late with a lower CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell count, later HAART initiation, and more rapid progression to AIDS than young PLWH [16-19].

As the proportion of older PLWH continues to grow, a comprehensive evaluation of cancer risk in this population is needed. We therefore examined cancer risk in older PLWH compared to the general population, and evaluated the effects of age and time since HIV diagnosis on cancer risk.

## **SUBJECTS AND METHODS**

### **Study population and outcomes**

The U.S. HIV/AIDS Cancer Match (HACM) study links data from population-based HIV and cancer registries using a probabilistic algorithm (<https://hivmatch.cancer.gov>) [14]. This analysis included data from 9 U.S. states/territories (See Table 1 note). The HACM Study was approved by the institutional review boards at the National Cancer Institute and, as required, participating cancer and HIV registries.

The HIV diagnosis date was identified from HIV registries as the date of the first available positive serological test for HIV infection. The follow-up for each person started at the later of the start of cancer registry coverage, 4 months after the HIV report date (or AIDS diagnosis date if earlier), or age 50 years, and ended at the earlier of death or end of cancer registry coverage.

We evaluated risk of ADCs: KS, cervical cancer, and NHL (overall and by subtypes: diffuse large B cell lymphoma [DLBCL], Burkitt lymphoma, primary central nervous system [CNS] lymphoma, and other/unspecified NHLs); and certain NADCs which have increased incidence among PLWH: cancers of the anus, lung, liver, and oral cavity/pharynx, and Hodgkin lymphoma [5]. Female breast, colon, and prostate cancers were also included; though their rates increase with age, these cancers are not elevated among PLWH [5]. The remaining cancers were grouped together in a separate category. Cancers were classified by using the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (3rd Edition) topography and morphology codes for invasive cancers (See Supplemental Table 1) [20].

## Statistical analyses

We compared cancer incidence rates between PLWH and the general population by calculating standardized incidence ratios (SIRs), which measures relative risk, and excess absolute risks (EARs), which measures absolute risk. SIRs were calculated as observed divided by the expected number of cases; expected cases were estimated by applying general population cancer incidence rates to the HIV population by age, sex, race/ethnicity, calendar year, and cancer registry. Since the AIDS epidemic affected the contemporaneous rates of KS and primary CNS lymphoma in the general population, we calculated the expected number of cases for these cancers with pre-AIDS epidemic (1973-1979) general population cancer incidence rates obtained from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program, stratified by race, sex, and age [21]. EARs for each cancer were estimated as the difference between the observed and expected cancer rates for age groups 50-59 and  $\geq 60$  years. For comparison, we also evaluated the SIRs and EARs among PLWH <50 years of age.

Among PLWH, we estimated cancer risk according to age (50-59, 60-69,  $\geq 70$  years), AIDS diagnosis (yes/no), and time since HIV diagnosis ( $\leq 5$ , 5.01-10, 10.01-15, and  $\geq 15.01$  years) by fitting Poisson regression models for each cancer type. Incidence rate ratios were adjusted (aIRRs) for race/ethnicity, sex/risk group, calendar year, region, and prior AIDS diagnosis and time since HIV diagnosis (in models for age) or age (in models for time since HIV diagnosis). Age, calendar year, prior AIDS diagnosis, and time since HIV diagnosis variables were updated over time.

We conducted some sensitivity analyses. Since outmigration of people from registry areas may result in over-estimating the person-time at risk, we decreased the person-time by 10% for PLWH after 10 years of follow-up and recalculated the SIRs [22]. It is possible that more cancer cases may be diagnosed shortly after HIV diagnosis because there may be a period of increased medical care around

the time of HIV diagnosis. Hence, we excluded the first year after HIV diagnosis date and re-estimated cancer risk according to time since HIV diagnosis. As risk of ADCs and NADCs have changed since the introduction of HAART, we restricted the follow-up time to calendar years 2001-2012 and recalculated the SIRs and aIRRs. Finally, we evaluated whether associations between age and cancer risk differed by time since HIV diagnosis, and associations between time since HIV diagnosis and cancer risk differed by age.

## RESULTS

We studied 183,542 PLWH aged  $\geq 50$  years old who contributed 928,194 person-years of follow-up (Table 1). The person-time distribution was: 75.1% in 50-59-year-olds, 20.4% in 60-69-year-olds, and 4.5% in 70+-year-olds. A large fraction of person-time was contributed by non-Hispanic blacks (47.6%), men (74.3%), and those with a prior AIDS diagnosis (71.9%). A large proportion of person-time for the time since HIV diagnosis was unknown (22.2%). Among PLWH with a known date of HIV diagnosis, more than 60% were infected with HIV for at least 5 years and approximately 20% were living with HIV infection for more than 15 years.

During the follow-up, 10,371 cancers were diagnosed, of which 1,647 (15.9%) were ADCs and 8,724 (84.1%) were NADCs (Table 2). As expected, rates were increased in older PLWH compared to the general population for KS (SIR=103.34), total NHL (SIR=3.05), and cervical cancer (SIR=2.02). Among NHLs, rates were strongly elevated for CNS lymphoma (SIR=47.39) and Burkitt lymphoma (SIR=13.75). Among the NADCs, a very high risk of anal cancer (SIR=14.00) was observed followed by Hodgkin lymphoma (SIR=7.61). Rates were moderately increased for liver (SIR=2.91), lung (SIR=1.71), and oral

cavity/pharyngeal cancers (SIR=1.66). Furthermore, breast (SIR=0.61), prostate (SIR=0.47), and colon cancer rates (SIR=0.63) were significantly lower among PLWH than the general population. The SIRs did not differ appreciably after adjusting the person-time for late follow-up, or by restricting analyses to calendar years 2001-2012 (Supplementary Tables 2 and 4).

A comparison of SIRs and EARs by age for evaluated cancers is depicted in Figure 1. The SIRs were the highest for the youngest age group (<50 years) for all cancers and decreased with age, except for Hodgkin lymphoma, for which the SIRs were largely constant. The EARs also decreased with age for KS, NHL, cervical cancer, and Hodgkin lymphoma. In contrast, the EARs increased with age for cancers of the anus, lung, liver, and oral cavity/pharynx.

When cancer incidence rates were examined by age group among PLWH (Table 3), we observed a significant decrease in KS risk with increasing age. When compared to 50-59-year-olds, PLWH who were 60-69 (aIRR=0.68) or ≥70 years old (aIRR=0.43) had lower KS rates (p-trend=0.0014). In contrast, rates for lung, prostate, and colon cancers increased with age (p-trend<0.0001) while the trend for breast cancer was borderline significant (p-trend=0.0575). Liver and oral cavity/pharyngeal cancer rates were higher among 60-69-year-olds compared to the 50-59-year age group (p-trend<0.05). No association between age and cancer risk was observed for NHL (total or subtypes), cervical cancer, anal cancer, or Hodgkin lymphoma (p-trend>0.05).

PLWH with a prior AIDS diagnosis had increased KS, NHL (particularly, DLBCL [aIRR=1.97] and CNS lymphomas [aIRR=5.17]), anal, lung, and oral cavity/pharyngeal cancer, and Hodgkin lymphoma rates compared to those who were not previously diagnosed with AIDS (aIRRs ranging from 1.37 to 2.66, Table 3). Prostate cancer rates were lower among those with a prior AIDS diagnosis (aIRR=0.84), while cervical, liver, breast, and colon cancer rates were not significantly different with prior AIDS.



Risk of most cancers was highest within the first 5 years after HIV diagnosis, and gradually decreased over time (Table 4). Significant decreasing trends were observed for KS (p-trend<0.0001), total NHL (p-trend<0.0001), lung cancer (p-trend=0.0002), breast cancer (p-trend=0.02), and Hodgkin lymphoma (p-trend=0.04), while a marginally statistically significant trend was observed for prostate cancer (p-trend=0.07). In contrast, there was an indication that risk increased with increasing time since HIV diagnosis for anal (p-trend=0.07) and liver cancers (p-trend=0.08). Excluding the first year after HIV diagnosis did not affect our results (Supplementary Table 3). Restricting the analyses to calendar years 2001-2012 did not affect the associations between age or time since HIV diagnosis and cancer risk (Supplementary Tables 5 and 6).

The associations between age and cancer risk did not differ by time since HIV diagnosis for all cancers (all p-interaction>0.05). However, there was significant heterogeneity in the association between time since HIV diagnosis and cancer risk by age for NHL (p-interaction=0.0026) and Hodgkin lymphoma (p-interaction=0.0211). The ratios for NHL decreased with time since HIV diagnosis for both age categories (p-trend<0.0001 for ages 50-59 and ≥60 years). For Hodgkin lymphoma, the trend for decreasing rates with time since HIV diagnosis was only observed for ≥60-year-olds (p-trend=0.0063), but not among those who were 50-59 years old (p-trend=0.4065).

## **DISCUSSION**

With the success of HAART, HIV infection has transformed from a terminal illness to a more manageable chronic disease. Consequently, more PLWH are reaching older ages. In our analyses that included more than 180,000 older PLWH, we observed that cancer risk was elevated in older PLWH compared to the general population, though the relative risk for most cancers declined with age. However, EARs, which measure absolute risk and thus reflect the number of excess cancers occurring

among PLWH, increased with age for some NADCs. We also observed that for many cancers, cancer risk was highest within the first five years after HIV diagnosis.

In the past 20 years, there has been a steady shift in the demographic profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S. towards the older age groups. In 2002, the CDC estimated that approximately 8.5% of the PLWH were over 50 years of age, and that number had increased to 44% in 2014 [12]. With aging, there is a complex interaction between various biological processes which may modulate cancer risk among PLWH: (i) factors related to aging, including age-related immune senescence; (ii) factors associated with HIV infection and its related immune dysfunction, such as HIV viral load, CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell count, and effectiveness of HAART; and (iii) various host factors that may affect cancer risk, such as viral coinfections and smoking. Furthermore, the immunosuppressive state in PLWH changes over time. The natural course of HIV infection is characterized by progressive decline in immune function from primary HIV infection to symptomatic disease with onset of AIDS-defining conditions [23]. HAART alters the natural history of HIV infection with gradual improvement of immunosuppressive state and restoration of CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell count over time. In addition, the duration of immunosuppressed state of a person infected with HIV also increases with time.

Few previous studies could evaluate cancer risk in older PLWH as this population has historically been too small to target [24, 25]. In our study, we observed that the risk of ADCs and certain NADCs were elevated in older PLWH compared to the general population, as has been previously reported in mostly young PLWH [3, 7, 26]. Because cancer risk increases with age, and PLWH are at a high risk for cancer, the aging of PLWH raises the question of whether the combined effect of age and HIV infection will further increase cancer risk in PLWH. As captured by SIRs, we did not observe an amplified cancer risk among PLWH associated with aging. In fact, the SIRs were highest for the young PLWH and declined

with age, except for Hodgkin lymphoma, suggesting that HIV-related immunosuppression may play a larger role in cancer development in younger age groups.

Although the risk of anal, lung, liver, and oral cavity/pharyngeal cancers in PLWH relative to the general population decreased with age, there was an increase in the excess cancer rates in absolute terms, as reflected in the EARs. Due to increasing cancer incidence in the general population with age, even a modest decrease in SIRs with advancing age could lead to an increase in EARs and thus number of cancer cases. Thus, as PLWH continue to age, we may continue to observe an increase in the absolute number of these NADCs.

Risks for KS, NHLs, Hodgkin lymphoma, lung, and breast cancer were highest within the first 5 years after HIV diagnosis. The intensity of immunosuppression may be highest in the initial period, as newly diagnosed PLWH are untreated and may be especially immunosuppressed [27, 28]. Alternatively, it is possible that people who survived for several years with HIV infection may represent a healthy subset of PLWH, while those with newly acquired and diagnosed HIV may have a higher prevalence of cancer risk factors. For example, a diagnosis of HIV infection may lead to changes in lifestyle habits such as reducing cigarette smoking [29]. Increased medical surveillance shortly after HIV diagnosis may also increase the possibility of detecting cancers, but excluding the first year of follow-up after HIV diagnosis did not eliminate the trend that we observed. In contrast, anal and liver cancer rates marginally increased with time since HIV diagnosis, which may represent the role of prolonged immunosuppression in increasing cancer rates due to human papillomavirus or hepatitis virus co-infections.

We observed lower risk of breast, prostate, and colon cancer rates in older PLWH compared to the general population, as has been previously reported [26, 30-33]. As in the general population, prostate and colon cancer rates increased with age, and the trend for breast cancer was borderline

significant. As these are common screen-detectable cancers, it has been speculated that reduced rates of these cancers may reflect lower rates of cancer screening among PLWH compared with the general population. However, recent studies suggest that the deficit of breast, colon, and prostate cancers among PLWH cannot be completely explained by lower rates of cancer screening [34, 35]. Biological explanations for these deficits need to be explored further.

Given the aging of PLWH and the increase in the burden of NADCs, it is essential to target available cancer prevention and screening strategies towards this population. Cancer prevention among PLWH is largely based on restoring immunity with HAART and reducing traditional cancer risk factors [36]. Timely linkage of care with HAART initiation and uninterrupted treatment for people who have been newly diagnosed with HIV infection is essential to restore immunity. This also gives an opportunity for healthcare providers to diagnose and treat coinfections, and to initiate counseling on modification of lifestyle behaviors such as smoking. General population screening guidelines for breast, prostate, and colon cancers should be followed. Cervical cancer screening is recommended at more frequent intervals than for HIV-uninfected women [37, 38], and the benefits of anal cancer screening are still being evaluated [37, 38]. Finally, screening for lung cancers with low-dose computerized tomography may be beneficial, but more data are needed among PLWH [37, 38].

A strength of our study was the use of a large population-based cohort of more than 180,000 PLWH aged  $\geq 50$  years with systematic cancer ascertainment, and the evaluation of cancer risk by time since HIV diagnosis. However, we were unable to include information on HAART use, CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell count, or HIV viral load in our analyses. Therefore, we cannot definitively interpret trends with respect to time since HIV diagnosis. In addition, our data do not include information about cancer risk factors, such as cigarette smoking and viral co-infection. Since the timing of acquiring HIV infection was not known, HIV duration could be calculated only from the first available positive serological test date, and 22.2% of

person-time contributed by PLWH in our study was missing this information. We were unable to adjust for competing risks due to coexisting comorbidities in our analyses. We used general population as our control group because we did not have access to an ideal HIV-uninfected population which may have similar characteristics to PLWH [39]. Finally, this analysis includes only PLWH who have been diagnosed with HIV, and an estimated 13% of PLWH are unaware that they are infected, more than 7% of whom may be over 50 years of age [40].

In conclusion, rates of several cancer types are elevated in older PLWH compared to the general population, albeit in the absence of information on important cancer risk factors. However, the relative risk of cancers is lower than for younger PLWH, suggesting that the combined effect of aging and HIV does not further amplify the relative risk of cancers. Despite lower relative risks, the absolute risk difference is higher for some NADCs among older PLWH leading to a greater incidence of excess cancers in this group. Thus, there is a continued need for cancer prevention and early detection among older PLWH. Cancer risk was also highest within the first 5 years after HIV diagnosis for most cancers, underscoring the importance of early HIV diagnosis, rapid initiation of HAART after HIV diagnosis, and interventions to reduce traditional risk factors in older PLWH.

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**DISCLAIMER:**

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and should not be interpreted to reflect the views or policies of the National Cancer Institute, HIV/AIDS or cancer registries, or their contractors.

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**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

All authors: No reported conflicts of interest.

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## TABLES

**Table 1:** Person-years contributed by older people living with HIV infection according to age categories.

| Characteristics                            | % of total Person-years            |   |   |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|  | Total<br>(928,124<br>person-years) | Age<br>50 – 59 years<br>(697,455<br>person-years) | Age<br>60 – 69 years<br>(189,015<br>person-years) | Age<br>≥ 70 years<br>(41,724<br>person-years) |
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b>                      |                                    |   |   |   |
| Non-Hispanic White                         | 25.8                               | 25.8  | 26.1  | 25.6  |
| Non-Hispanic Black                         | 47.6                               | 48.0  | 46.5  | 45.3  |
| Hispanic                                   | 26.6                               | 26.2  | 27.3  | 29.0  |
| <b>Sex/risk group</b>                      |                                    |   |   |   |
| MSM  | 27.0                               | 27.0  | 27.1  | 25.9  |
| Male IDU                                   | 22.1                               | 23.3  | 19.9  | 11.5  |
| MSM/IDU                                    | 3.9                                | 4.4   | 2.8   | 1.2   |
| Male other/unknown                         | 21.3                               | 19.4  | 25.4  | 34.6  |
| Female IDU                                 | 7.5                                | 8.5   | 5.1   | 2.3   |
| Female other/unknown                       | 18.2                               | 17.4  | 19.7  | 24.6  |
| <b>Calendar year</b>                       |                                    |   |   |   |
| 1996 - 2000                                | 2.9                                | 3.1   | 2.3   | 2.3   |
| 2001 - 2005                                | 23.3                               | 24.4  | 20.0  | 19.6  |
| 2006 - 2012                                | 73.8                               | 72.5  | 77.7  | 78.2  |
| <b>Prior AIDS diagnosis</b>                |                                    |   |   |   |
| No   | 28.1                               | 28.5  | 26.9  | 26.1  |
| Yes  | 71.9                               | 71.5  | 73.1  | 73.9  |
| <b>Time since HIV diagnosis,<br/>years</b> |                                    |   |   |   |
| Unknown                                    | 22.2                               | 22.0  | 22.5  | 22.7  |
| ≤5   | 16.9                               | 17.0  | 16.2  | 16.1  |
| 5.01 - 10                                  | 24.0                               | 24.0  | 23.6  | 24.6  |
| 10.01 - 15                                 | 20.9                               | 20.9  | 20.7  | 21.0  |
| ≥15.01                                     | 16.1                               | 16.0  | 16.9  | 15.5  |

Abbreviations: IDU, injection drug users; MSM, men who have sex with men

Note: Participating registries with years of coverage: Colorado (covering 1996-2007), Connecticut (2005-2010), Georgia (2004-2012), Maryland (2008-2012), Michigan (1996-2010), New Jersey (1996-2012), New York (2001-2012), Puerto Rico (2003-2012), and Texas (1999-2009).

**Table 2:** Risk of cancers in older people living with HIV infection (age ≥ 50 years)

| <b>Cancers</b>                   | <b>Observed<br/>no. of<br/>cases</b> | <b>Expected<br/>no. of<br/>cases</b> | <b>IR per<br/>100,000<br/>PY</b> | <b>SIR</b> | <b>95% CI</b>  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| <b>All cancers</b>               | 10,371                               | 8,929                                | 1,117.3                          | 1.16       | 1.14 - 1.18    |
| <b>AIDS-defining cancers</b>     |                                      |                                      |                                  |            |                |
| Kaposi sarcoma                   | 338                                  | 3.3                                  | 36.4                             | 103.34     | 92.62 - 114.97 |
| Non-Hodgkin lymphoma             | 1,222                                | 401.2                                | 131.7                            | 3.05       | 2.88 - 3.22    |
| Diffuse large B cell             | 674                                  | 110.0                                | 72.6                             | 6.12       | 5.67 - 6.61    |
| Burkitt                          | 103                                  | 7.5                                  | 11.1                             | 13.75      | 11.23 - 16.68  |
| CNS                              | 74                                   | 8.1                                  | 8.0                              | 47.39      | 37.21 - 59.49  |
| Other/Unspecified                | 371                                  | 282.1                                | 39.9                             | 1.32       | 1.18 - 1.46    |
| Cervical cancer                  | 87                                   | 43.0                                 | 36.5                             | 2.02       | 1.62 - 2.49    |
| <b>Non-AIDS defining cancers</b> |                                      |                                      |                                  |            |                |
| Anus                             | 524                                  | 37.4                                 | 56.5                             | 14.00      | 12.82 - 15.25  |
| Lung                             | 1,725                                | 1,012                                | 185.8                            | 1.71       | 1.63 - 1.79    |
| Liver                            | 805                                  | 276.4                                | 86.7                             | 2.91       | 2.71 - 3.12    |
| Hodgkin lymphoma                 | 253                                  | 33.3                                 | 27.3                             | 7.61       | 6.70 - 8.60    |
| Oral cavity/pharynx              | 461                                  | 278.4                                | 49.7                             | 1.66       | 1.51 - 1.81    |
| Female breast                    | 329                                  | 542.0                                | 137.9                            | 0.61       | 0.54 - 0.68    |
| Prostate                         | 1,341                                | 2,829                                | 194.5                            | 0.47       | 0.45 - 0.50    |
| Colon (excluding rectum)         | 360                                  | 571.3                                | 38.8                             | 0.63       | 0.57 - 0.70    |
| Other cancers                    | 2,926                                | 5,731                                | 315.2                            | 1.01       | 0.97 - 1.05    |

Abbreviations: CI, confidence intervals; CNS, central nervous system; IR, incidence rate; PY, person-years; SIR, standardized incidence ratio

**Table 3:** Risk of cancers in older people living with HIV infection according to age and prior AIDS diagnosis

| Cancers                          | Age 50-59 years |                               | Age 60-69 years |                               | Age ≥70 years |                               | p- trend           | AIDS diagnosis<br>(Yes vs. No)<br>aIRR <sup>b</sup> (95% CI) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
|                                  | N               | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) | N               | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) | N             | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) |                    |  |
| <b>AIDS-defining cancers</b>     |                 |                               |                 |                               |               |                               |                    |  |
| Kaposi sarcoma                   | 280             | Reference                     | 51              | <u>0.68 (0.51 - 0.92)</u>     | 7             | <u>0.43 (0.20 - 0.92)</u>     | <u>0.0014</u>      | <u>1.86 (1.40 - 2.47)</u>                                    |
| Non-Hodgkin lymphoma             | 946             | Reference                     | 227             | 0.90 (0.78 - 1.04)            | 49            | 0.88 (0.66 - 1.18)            | 0.1259             | <u>1.74 (1.50 - 2.01)</u>                                    |
| Diffuse large B cell             | 521             | Reference                     | 127             | 0.90 (0.74 - 1.10)            | 26            | 0.84 (0.56 - 1.25)            | 0.2073             | <u>1.97 (1.61 - 2.41)</u>                                    |
| Burkitt <sup>c</sup>             | 82              | Reference                     | 21              | 0.80 (0.49 - 1.30)            | -             | -                             | 0.3690             | 1.22 (0.77 - 1.92)   |
| CNS <sup>c</sup>                 | 63              | Reference                     | 11              | 0.53 (0.28 - 1.01)            | -             | -                             | 0.0533             | <u>5.17 (2.25 - 12.21)</u>                                   |
| Other/Unspecified                | 280             | Reference                     | 71              | 0.94 (0.73 - 1.21)            | 20            | 1.12 (0.71 - 1.77)            | 0.3331             | <u>1.50 (1.18 - 1.90)</u>                                    |
| Cervical cancer <sup>c</sup>     | 66              | Reference                     | 21              | 1.10 (0.67 - 1.82)            | -             | -                             | 0.6957             | 1.50 (0.91 - 2.49)   |
| <b>Non-AIDS defining cancers</b> |                 |                               |                 |                               |               |                               |                    |  |
| Anus                             | 397             | Reference                     | 112             | 1.05 (0.85 - 1.29)            | 15            | 0.66 (0.40 - 1.11)            | 0.4494             | <u>2.66 (2.04 - 3.47)</u>                                    |
| Lung                             | 1,030           | Reference                     | 552             | <u>2.11 (1.90 - 2.34)</u>     | 143           | <u>2.62 (2.20 - 3.13)</u>     | <u>&lt; 0.0001</u> | <u>1.37 (1.22 - 1.53)</u>                                    |
| Liver                            | 546             | Reference                     | 226             | <u>1.61 (1.38 - 1.89)</u>     | 33            | 1.29 (0.91 - 1.84)            | <u>&lt; 0.0001</u> | 0.92 (0.78 - 1.09)   |
| Hodgkin lymphoma                 | 193             | Reference                     | 53              | 1.00 (0.74 - 1.36)            | 7             | 0.58 (0.27 - 1.23)            | 0.3244             | <u>2.19 (1.55 - 3.09)</u>                                    |
| Oral cavity/pharynx              | 315             | Reference                     | 132             | <u>1.55 (1.26 - 1.90)</u>     | 14            | 0.76 (0.44 - 1.30)            | <u>0.0310</u>      | <u>1.67 (1.31 - 2.12)</u>                                    |
| Female breast                    | 232             | Reference                     | 77              | 1.26 (0.97 - 1.63)            | 20            | 1.32 (0.83 - 2.09)            | 0.0575             | 1.03 (0.82 - 1.31)   |
| Prostate                         | 627             | Reference                     | 550             | <u>3.11 (2.77 - 3.49)</u>     | 164           | <u>4.12 (3.46 - 4.90)</u>     | <u>&lt; 0.0001</u> | <u>0.84 (0.74 - 0.94)</u>                                    |
| Colon (excluding rectum)         | 177             | Reference                     | 125             | <u>2.59 (2.06 - 3.26)</u>     | 58            | <u>5.28 (3.90 - 7.15)</u>     | <u>&lt; 0.0001</u> | 0.89 (0.71 - 1.13)   |
| Other cancers                    | 1,845           | Reference                     | 829             | <u>1.69 (1.55 - 1.83)</u>     | 252           | <u>2.34 (2.05 - 2.68)</u>     | <u>&lt; 0.0001</u> | <u>1.25 (1.15 - 1.36)</u>                                    |

Abbreviations: aIRR, adjusted incidence rate ratio; CI, confidence intervals; CNS, central nervous system

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted for race, sex/risk group, calendar year, region, prior AIDS diagnosis, and time since HIV diagnosis

<sup>b</sup> Adjusted for age, race, sex/risk group, calendar year, region, and time since HIV diagnosis

<sup>c</sup> Adjusted risk estimates and p-trend for these cancers are presented for age groups 50-59 years and ≥60 years because the number of cancers that occurred in ≥ 70-years category were too few (Burkitt lymphoma, n=1; CNS lymphoma, n=2; cervical cancer; n=2)

**Table 4:** Risk of cancers in older HIV-infected individuals according to the time since HIV diagnosis

| Cancers                          | ≤5 years |                               | 5.01-10 years |                               | 10.01-15 years |                               | ≥15.01 years |                               | p-trend  |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------|
|                                  | N        | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) | N             | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) | N              | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) | N            | aIRR <sup>a</sup><br>(95% CI) |          |
| <b>AIDS-defining cancers</b>     |          |                               |               |                               |                |                               |              |                               |          |
| Kaposi sarcoma                   | 95       | Reference                     | 81            | <u>0.58 (0.43 - 0.79)</u>     | 55             | <u>0.44 (0.31 - 0.63)</u>     | 40           | <u>0.43 (0.29 - 0.65)</u>     | < 0.0001 |
| Non-Hodgkin lymphoma             | 355      | Reference                     | 308           | <u>0.60 (0.51 - 0.70)</u>     | 204            | <u>0.45 (0.38 - 0.54)</u>     | 123          | <u>0.36 (0.29 - 0.45)</u>     | < 0.0001 |
| Diffuse large B cell             | 183      | Reference                     | 164           | <u>0.60 (0.49 - 0.75)</u>     | 122            | <u>0.50 (0.39 - 0.64)</u>     | 66           | <u>0.36 (0.26 - 0.49)</u>     | < 0.0001 |
| Burkitt                          | 33       | Reference                     | 22            | <u>0.44 (0.25 - 0.76)</u>     | 18             | <u>0.39 (0.21 - 0.72)</u>     | 9            | <u>0.24 (0.11 - 0.53)</u>     | 0.0001   |
| CNS                              | 24       | Reference                     | 19            | 0.54 (0.29 - 1.00)            | 10             | <u>0.33 (0.15 - 0.71)</u>     | 10           | 0.46 (0.20 - 1.05)            | 0.0164   |
| Other/Unspecified                | 115      | Reference                     | 103           | <u>0.63 (0.48 - 0.82)</u>     | 54             | <u>0.39 (0.28 - 0.54)</u>     | 38           | <u>0.38 (0.26 - 0.55)</u>     | < 0.0001 |
| Cervical cancer                  | 21       | Reference                     | 22            | 0.75 (0.40 - 1.37)            | 16             | 0.61 (0.31 - 1.23)            | 12           | 0.64 (0.29 - 1.43)            | 0.2004   |
| <b>Non-AIDS defining cancers</b> |          |                               |               |                               |                |                               |              |                               |          |
| Anus                             | 59       | Reference                     | 99            | 1.03 (0.74 - 1.43)            | 140            | <u>1.50 (1.09 - 2.06)</u>     | 95           | 1.21 (0.86 - 1.72)            | 0.0683   |
| Lung                             | 355      | Reference                     | 459           | 0.92 (0.80 - 1.06)            | 367            | 0.87 (0.74 - 1.02)            | 213          | <u>0.70 (0.58 - 0.84)</u>     | 0.0002   |
| Liver                            | 98       | Reference                     | 155           | 0.97 (0.75 - 1.26)            | 180            | 1.17 (0.90 - 1.51)            | 157          | 1.20 (0.91 - 1.59)            | 0.0775   |
| Hodgkin lymphoma                 | 64       | Reference                     | 61            | <u>0.69 (0.48 - 0.99)</u>     | 41             | <u>0.54 (0.36 - 0.82)</u>     | 39           | 0.70 (0.45 - 1.09)            | 0.0405   |
| Oral cavity/pharynx              | 79       | Reference                     | 117           | 1.02 (0.76 - 1.36)            | 96             | 0.93 (0.68 - 1.27)            | 66           | 0.82 (0.57 - 1.17)            | 0.2216   |
| Female breast                    | 75       | Reference                     | 90            | 0.85 (0.62 - 1.17)            | 63             | 0.72 (0.50 - 1.02)            | 38           | <u>0.64 (0.42 - 0.98)</u>     | 0.0214   |
| Prostate                         | 231      | Reference                     | 363           | 1.08 (0.91 - 1.27)            | 272            | 0.94 (0.78 - 1.13)            | 191          | 0.86 (0.70 - 1.07)            | 0.0726   |
| Colon (excluding rectum)         | 68       | Reference                     | 90            | 0.94 (0.68 - 1.30)            | 82             | 1.03 (0.73 - 1.45)            | 43           | 0.75 (0.49 - 1.14)            | 0.3239   |
| Other cancers                    | 568      | Reference                     | 741           | 0.91 (0.82 - 1.02)            | 643            | 0.91 (0.80 - 1.02)            | 429          | <u>0.79 (0.69 - 0.91)</u>     | 0.0004   |

Abbreviations: CI, confidence intervals; IRR, incidence rate ratio

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted for age, race, sex/risk group, calendar year, region, and prior AIDS diagnosis

## FIGURE

**Figure 1:** Risk of cancers in people living with HIV compared to the general population

**Figure 1 legend:** The figure plots the standardized incidence ratios (SIRs) on the left y-axis, the excess absolute risks (EARs) per 100,000 population on the right y-axis, and 3 age groups on the x-axis (< 50 years, 50-59 years,  $\geq 60$  years). Risks of 3 AIDS-defining cancers, i.e. Kaposi sarcoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and cervical cancer, are plotted in panels A, B, and C, respectively, and risks of 5 non-AIDS-defining cancers, i.e. anal cancer, lung cancer, liver cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma, and oral cavity/pharynx cancer, are plotted in panels D, E, F, G, and H, respectively.

**Abbreviations:** EAR, excess absolute risk; SIR, standardized incidence ratio



Figure 1.

