

The BMJ

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Mortality due to cancer treatment delay: systematic review and meta-analysis

Cancer treatment delay is a problem in health systems worldwide. The impact of delay on mortality can now be quantified for prioritization and modeling. Even a four-week delay of cancer treatment is associated with increased mortality across surgical, systemic treatment, and radiotherapy indications for seven cancers. Policies focused on minimizing system-level delays to cancer treatment initiation could ... improve survival outcomes.

PLoS One

2019 Apr 4;14(4):e0215108. PMID: 30822350; PMCID: PMC6396925

Time to initial cancer treatment in the United States and association with survival over time: An observational study

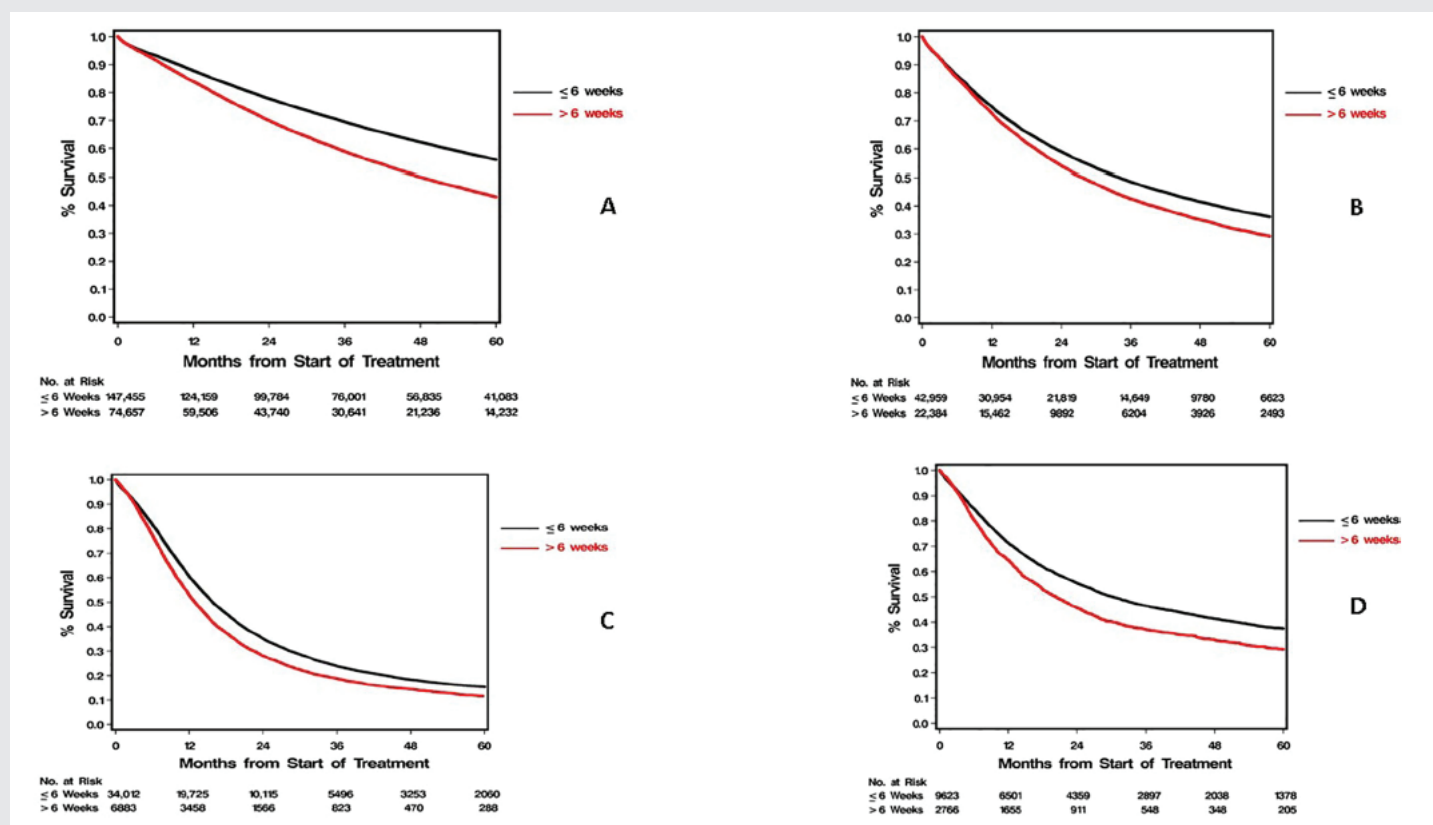


Fig 2. Overall survival by prolonged treatment delay in stages I and II non-small cell lung and pancreas cancers. Five-year overall survival for National Cancer Database patients with time to treatment initiation of six weeks or less was substantially higher when compared to patients with time to treatment initiation greater than six weeks for stage I (A) and stage II (B) non-small cell lung cancer and stage I (C) and stage II (D) pancreas cancers (P<0.001 for each).

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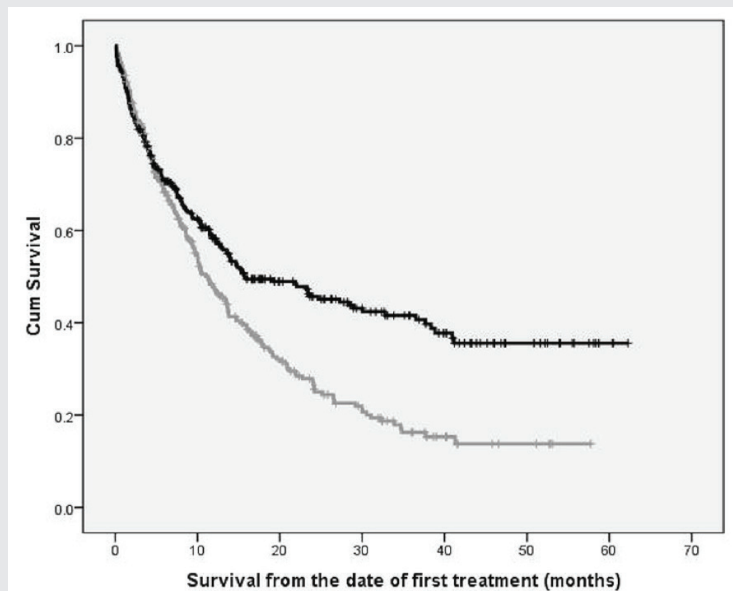
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- 🔥 4- to 6-week delays in cancer treatment causes cancer deaths
- 🔥 A 5% difference in group survival is 5 individual patients out of 100 dead—who would otherwise be alive—due to the cancer treatment delay
- 🔥 Time to treatment matters—for every person, with every cancer!

Curr Oncol.

2017 Oct;24(5):302-309. DOI:10.3747/co.24.3611

Lung cancer care trajectory at a Canadian centre: an evaluation of how wait times affect clinical outcomes



NSCLC stage [n (%)]

Early-stage (IA–IIB)	177 (26.0)
Locally advanced (IIIA–IIIB)	111 (16.5)
Advanced (IV)	390 (57.4)

SCLC stage [n (%)]

Limited	27 (37.0)
Extensive	46 (63.0)

Fig 3. Association of survival with timeliness of care (unadjusted analysis). The black curve tracks patients treated within 30 days from diagnosis. The grey curve tracks patients treated more than 30 days from diagnosis.

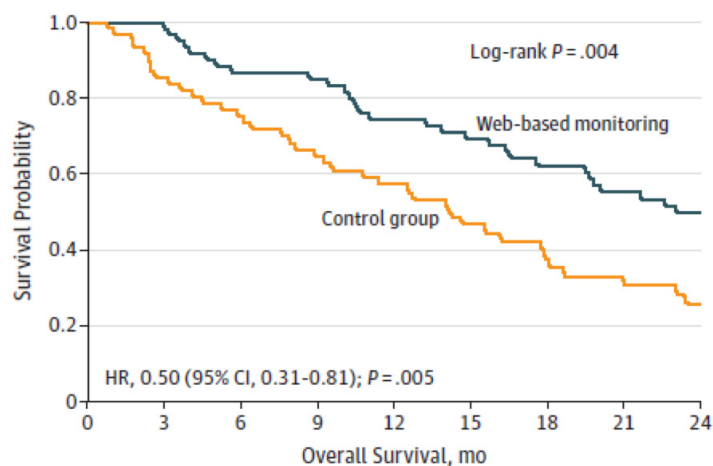
JAMA Oncol.

January 22, 2019 Volume 321, Number 3
Two-Year Survival Comparing Web-Based Symptom Monitoring vs Routine Surveillance Following Treatment for Lung Cancer

Patient-reported symptoms prompted a work-in clinical visit. The control arm was only seen at scheduled follow-up appointments.

🔥 Relapses were detected 5 weeks earlier with an immediate symptomatic work-in visit when compared with waiting for the scheduled follow-up appointment.

🔥 Starting treatment more quickly achieves a much better SURVIVAL for your patients!



No. at risk

Web-based monitoring	60	60	51	48	43	39	35	31	27
Control	61	52	43	33	26	20	15	13	11

Source	Median OS	12-mo OS, %	24-mo OS, %
Web-based monitoring	22.5 mo	75	50
Control	13.5 mo	53	26