

EPIDEMIOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS OF  
MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS IN TAIWAN:

## III. STOMACH CANCER

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Mortality rates from 1954 to 1983 and incidence rates from 1983 to 1985 of stomach cancer in Taiwan were analyzed to examine its secular trend, age curve, sex ratio, geographical clustering, international variation and migrant difference. Both mortality and incidence rates of stomach cancer increased with age in a log-linear relationship and peaked at the highest age group. The sex (male-to-female) ratio remained consistently around two-fold for age-specific mortality and incidence rates. The age-adjusted mortality has been decreasing since early 1970s for both males and females. Among 17 countries and areas compared, cumulative stomach cancer mortality in Taiwan ranked as the 11th and 13th, respectively, for males and females. High stomach cancer mortality rates were found to cluster in northeastern area and eastern aboriginal townships in Taiwan. Migrant study showed that Chinese in United States had much lower stomach cancer incidence than those in Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei and Hong Kong.

(Key words: *Stomach cancer, epidemiology, Taiwan.*)

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### Introduction

Stomach cancer is one of the major cancers in Taiwan. Although the mortality of stomach cancer has been decreasing since early 1970s, the disease still ranked as the third leading cancer deaths for males and the second for females with crude mortality as high as 109.8 and 49.4 per 100,000, respec-

tively in 1985. The disease still has significant impact to the whole society in Taiwan. However, there has been quite few epidemiologic studies on stomach cancer in Taiwan. This study was carried out with the specific aim to examine the epidemiologic characteristics, including age curve, sex ratio, secular trend, geographical clustering, international variation and migrant difference of stomach

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