

# Adolescent and young adult cancer in Switzerland: epidemiology and psychosocial health

Katharina Roser<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Dytar<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health Sciences and Medicine, University of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> Cancer Registry of Central Switzerland, Lucerne, Switzerland

Katharina Roser, PhD



katharina.ros@unilu.ch



katharina-roser



## BACKGROUND

- Cancer in adolescents and young adults (AYAs, 15-39 years of age) is different from cancer in children or in older adults
- Important developmental tasks can be affected
- Research in this group is limited
- ➔ **New project:** Investigate AYA cancer epidemiology and psychosocial health of AYA cancer survivors

## PROJECT AIMS

- 1) Epidemiology Study:** Provide overview of the epidemiology of AYA cancer in Switzerland
- 2) Psychosocial Health Study:** Assess psychosocial health, psychosocial problems and needs in AYA cancer survivors

## METHODS

### 1) Epidemiology Study

- AYAs diagnosed with cancer at age 15-39 years in Switzerland
- Categorization of AYA cancer cases according to AYA cancer classification<sup>1,2</sup> (based on ICD-O-3<sup>3</sup>)
- Incidence rates and corresponding mortality and survival rates for Switzerland
- Pilot study with data from Central Switzerland



### 2) Psychosocial Health Study

- Cross-sectional online questionnaire survey
- Individuals aged 15-39 years at initial cancer diagnosis, who survived cancer for >2 years
- Outcomes:
  - Psychosocial situation at diagnosis and at time of study (e.g. education, employment, partnership, health-related quality of life, and psychological distress)
  - Psychosocial problems and needs

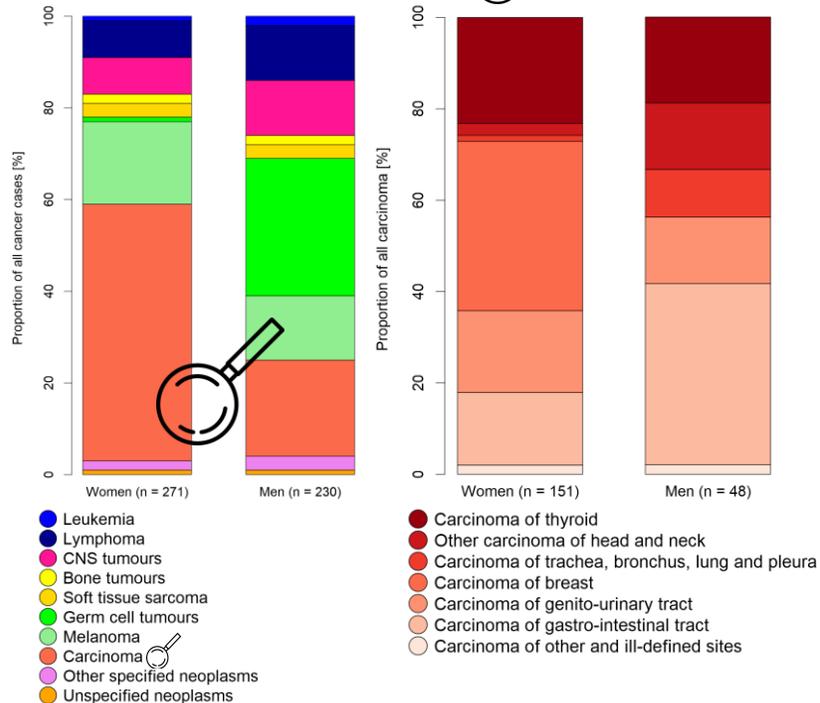


## RESULTS PILOT STUDY

AYA cancer cases (n = 501)



Carcinoma (n = 199)



- 501 AYA cancer cases in Central Switzerland (LU, UR, OW, NW) between 2011 and 2014 in 265 women and 229 men (multiple tumours in some patients)
- Carcinoma (55.7%) are the most common tumours in female AYAs
- In male AYAs, germ cell tumours (29.6%) and carcinoma (20.9%) are most prevalent

## EXPECTED RESULTS PROJECT

- 1)** Detailed overview of epidemiology of AYA cancer in Switzerland
  - 2)** Insights into psychosocial health and psychosocial problems AYA cancer survivors might encounter during the cancer trajectory
- ➔ Project will help to adapt and/or develop support services for AYA cancer patients and survivors and consequently improve health and well-being of AYA cancer survivors.

## References

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## Funding

Palatin-Stiftung, Zentralschweizer Krebsliga, Avenir Stiftung, two anonymous foundations; research commission of the University of Lucerne, Cancer Registry of Central Switzerland

