The epidemiology of cancers of the stomach and esophagus in China

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The stomach and esophageal cancer was the two leading causes of cancer deaths in 1973-1975 in China. In 1973-1975, the age-standardized mortality rate (ASMR) of stomach cancer was 17.70/10^5, ranked first of all causes of cancer death. A higher rate was found in the male than in the female. The ASMR was mainly increased with age and reached the peak at 70-75 years (164.11/10^5) while the males always had a higher rate than females. Higher ASMR was found in the urban residents (19.80/10^5), ranked first among all causes of cancer deaths, than the rural population (17.00/10^5), ranked second. In the same time period, the ASMR of esophageal cancer was 17.10/105, ranked second of all causes of cancer death. Similarly, males had the higher rate than females. The age-specific mortality rate was mainly increased with age increasing until to the 70-75 age group (186.11/10^5). Males had a higher growth rate than females. Higher ASMR was found in rural regions (17.70/10^5) than in urban residents (15.50/10^5). In 2002-2007, the cancers of stomach and esophagus in China ranked third and fourth of all causes of cancer deaths, respectively. The age-standardized incidence rate (ASIR) of stomach cancer was 17.06/10^5, ranked second of all new cancer cases. The males had about 1.4 times higher ASI (24.04/10^5) than females (10.46/10^5). The age-specific incidence rates of stomach cancer increased with age increasing until the age of 75-80 years in adults. The ASMR of stomach cancer was 11.67/10^5, which was decreased from that in 1973-1975. The peak of the age-specific mortality of stomach was backward to 80-85 years, and the ASMR declined markedly in urban regions while ascended in rural regions compared to the rates in 1973-1975. The ASIR of esophageal cancer was 10.14/10^5, ranked six of all new cancer cases in 2002-2007, and males had a higher rate than females. The age-specific incidence rate was increasing with age increasing until 80-84 years in adults. The ASMR of esophageal cancer was 7.58/10^5, lower than that in 1973-1975. In comparison with rates in 1973-1975, the peak of age-specific mortality of stomach was backward to 80-85 years. The ASMR of esophageal cancer declined in urban population, and ascended in rural population in 2002-2007 compared to 1973-1975. In addition, the incidence and mortality rate of esophageal cancer in rural population were about five times high than the urban population in 2002-2007. The changes of the epidemic of the two important cancers suggest that prevention and control have played important roles and different preventive strategies and measures should be applied in China.

Biography
Xiaonong Zou has completed her MD from Sichuan Medical College and postdoctoral studies from University of Southern California, School of Medicine in 1986. She is the professor of epidemiology, chief of tobacco control office at the Cancer Institute/Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, standing member of Chinese Cancer Registration and Surveillance Association. She has published more than 60 papers in reputed journals and serving as an editorial board member of repute.