



## A review of the epidemiology of gastrointestinal cancers in Iran

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Now cancer is among the top three causes of death in developed countries and also in Iran. The incidence of cancer varies in different societies and its epidemiological characteristics, especially gastrointestinal cancers in recent decades has been a fundamental change. The aim of this study is to determine the epidemiology of gastrointestinal cancers in Iran.

**Methods:** This study is a review study that is done by referring to books, articles and scientific journals. Articles extracted between the years 2000-2016 and with keywords epidemiology, cancer, digestive system, prevalence.

**Results:** According to studies gastrointestinal cancers is the most prevalent cancers in Iran and associated with high mortality. The incidence of different types of cancer among different populations varies with factors such as occupational, social, cultural, racial, geographic and nutritional communication. Among gastrointestinal cancer, gastric cancer is the most common cancer in men more than women in Iran. This cancer has a very high prevalence in the north and northwest, moderate in central and western provinces and its prevalence is low in southern and eastern



The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Gastrointestinal Cancer Congress



provinces. Esophageal cancer is the second most common cancer in Iran and it is more reported in the north and northeast of the country. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in women and is the fifth cancer in men and there is very little information available about the epidemiology of this disease in Iran.

**Conclusion:** Due to the different distribution of different types of gastrointestinal cancer and the importance of this type of cancer in terms of morbidity and mortality, epidemiologic investigation of this cancer and additional research to identify risk factors and preventing them is essential.

**Keywords:** Epidemiology-Cancer-Gastrointestinal