Introduction Previous studies have shown higher breast cancer incidence and mortality among Japanese Brazilians than Japanese. To clarify the difference in hormone levels among populations, we compared postmenopausal endogenous sex hormone levels among Japanese living in Japan, Japanese Brazilians living in São Paulo, and non-Japanese Brazilians living in São Paulo.

Methods A cross-sectional study was conducted using a control group of case-control studies in Nagano, Japan and São Paulo, Brazil. Subjects were postmenopausal women aged over 55 years old who provided blood samples. We measured oestradiol, oestrone, androstenedione, dehydroepiandrosterone sulphate (DHEAS), testosterone and free testosterone by radioimmunoassay, bioavailable oestradiol by the ammonium sulphate precipitation method, and sex-hormone binding globulin (SHBG) by immunoradiometric assay. A total of 363 women were included for the present analyses: 185 Japanese, 44 Japanese Brazilians and 134 non-Japanese Brazilians.

Results Japanese Brazilians had significantly higher levels of oestradiol, bioavailable oestradiol, oestrone, testosterone, and free testosterone, and lower SHBG levels than Japanese. Japanese Brazilians also had significantly higher levels of bioavailable oestradiol, oestrone, and DHEAS, and lower levels of SHBG and androstenedione than non-Japanese Brazilians. Levels of oestradiol, testosterone, and free testosterone, however, did not differ between Japanese Brazilians and non-Japanese Brazilians. These differences were observed even after adjustment for known breast cancer risk factors.

Conclusions We found higher levels of oestrogens and androgens in Japanese Brazilians than in Japanese, and similar to or higher levels than in non-Japanese Brazilians. Our findings may help explain the increase in incidence and mortality of breast cancer among Japanese Brazilians.

Conclusions Patients with lung cancer have an increase in reporting of symptoms to the GP which occurs about 9 months before they are diagnosed. Future work will aim to develop these results into a predictive score to allow earlier diagnosis of lung cancer.

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Introduction

Much research exists on the relationship between environmental factors and physical activity (PA). However, few studies have investigated the role of social cohesion in neighbourhoods. The aim of this study was to assess the extent to which social cohesion and changes over time in the levels of social cohesion were associated with PA.

Methods

We used data from the survey WoonOnderzoek Nederland 2006 and 2009, using two samples of 57,092 Dutch adults. Using multi-level hurdle negative binomial models, we assessed if the odds for being physically inactive and the mean hours of PA among people who are physically active were related to levels of social cohesion at neighbourhood level, and changes in social cohesion between 2006 and 2009. Next, we examined if these associations varied according to sex, age, and economic activity.

Results

In areas with higher levels of social cohesion compared to areas with less social cohesion, more people were physically active. In addition, generally social cohesion was not associated with the amount of PA. Improvements in social cohesion between 2006 and 2009 is based on the birth database held at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Conclusion

Social cohesion is related to physical (in)activity. However, improvements in social cohesion were not strongly related to physical (in)activity. This raises question on the causality of the relationships that are observed in cross-sectional analyses. Enhancing social cohesion in neighbourhoods may have limited influence on population levels of physical activity.

Conclusion

There is a decline in the lung function which is related to the duration of work and amount of dust exposure. It mainly shows a restrictive pattern of impairment.

Introduction

Infant mortality rates in Switzerland had been among the lowest in Europe. This is not longer the case. Swiss rates are now in the medium range. This paper examines reasons why. Data from 1900 to 2009 is based on the birth database held at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO). Variables on weight, length, number of siblings, ages of mother and father are taken into account, as well as causes of death. Gestational age was only recently introduced into the data registration. In 1900 the infant mortality rate in Switzerland was 150 per 1000 live births, in 1990 6.8 and in 2009 4.3 per 1000. In the last 20 years, the infant mortality rate dropped by about a third. A strong decline is primarily observed among children aged 28 days up to 1 year. In children aged 1 to 27 days, the mortality rate has halved over the same period. A growing mortality rate, however, is seen in infants in the first 24 h after birth. Mostly affected are extremely premature births, which are due to their immaturity at high risk. During the same time, numbers of twins, numbers of low birth weight infants and age of mothers had increased considerably. The slowing, if not stagnant decline in infant mortality in Switzerland in recent years is explained by an increase in high risk deliveries. Infants in Switzerland die, if anything, more and more in the first days of life, even in the first hours after birth.

Objective

To understand trends of vascular interventions and changes in provision of vascular surgery.

Design

A retrospective, descriptive, population-based study using hospital discharge data.

Setting


Chief outcome measures

Time trends in patient demographics and age and sex-specific population rates of these procedures.

Results

In Scotland, between 1991 and 2007, a total of 153,117 vascular procedures of interest were performed. The proportion of men who underwent these procedures was higher than the proportion of women. The mean age of individuals who underwent amputation and lumbar sympathectomy decreased significantly overall the period under review (p<0.001). In contrast, the mean age of individuals who underwent diagnostic endovascular procedures and therapeutic endovascular procedures increased significantly (p<0.001). However, the mean age of individuals who underwent...