



Comparative Outcome in Treatment of Anorectal Melanoma: Insight from the SEER Database

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BACKGROUND

Anorectal melanoma (ARM) is a rare malignancy with poor patient outcomes, primarily addressed through surgical intervention. Previous studies compared the extensive resection (ER) and local excision (LE) approach; however, the efficacy of chemotherapy is ambiguous.

AIMS

To explore the utility of chemotherapy on survival in ARM patients, irrespective of type of surgical intervention received.

METHODS

- ARM patients between 2000 and 2020 were identified using the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database.
- Cases were grouped by: 1) surgery (either ER or LE) with chemotherapy, 2) surgery without chemotherapy, 3) no surgery with chemotherapy, and 4) no surgery or chemotherapy.
- Survival curves by the Kaplan-Meier method were generated. Trends in the occurrence of disease across different age groups and yearly incidence were compared.

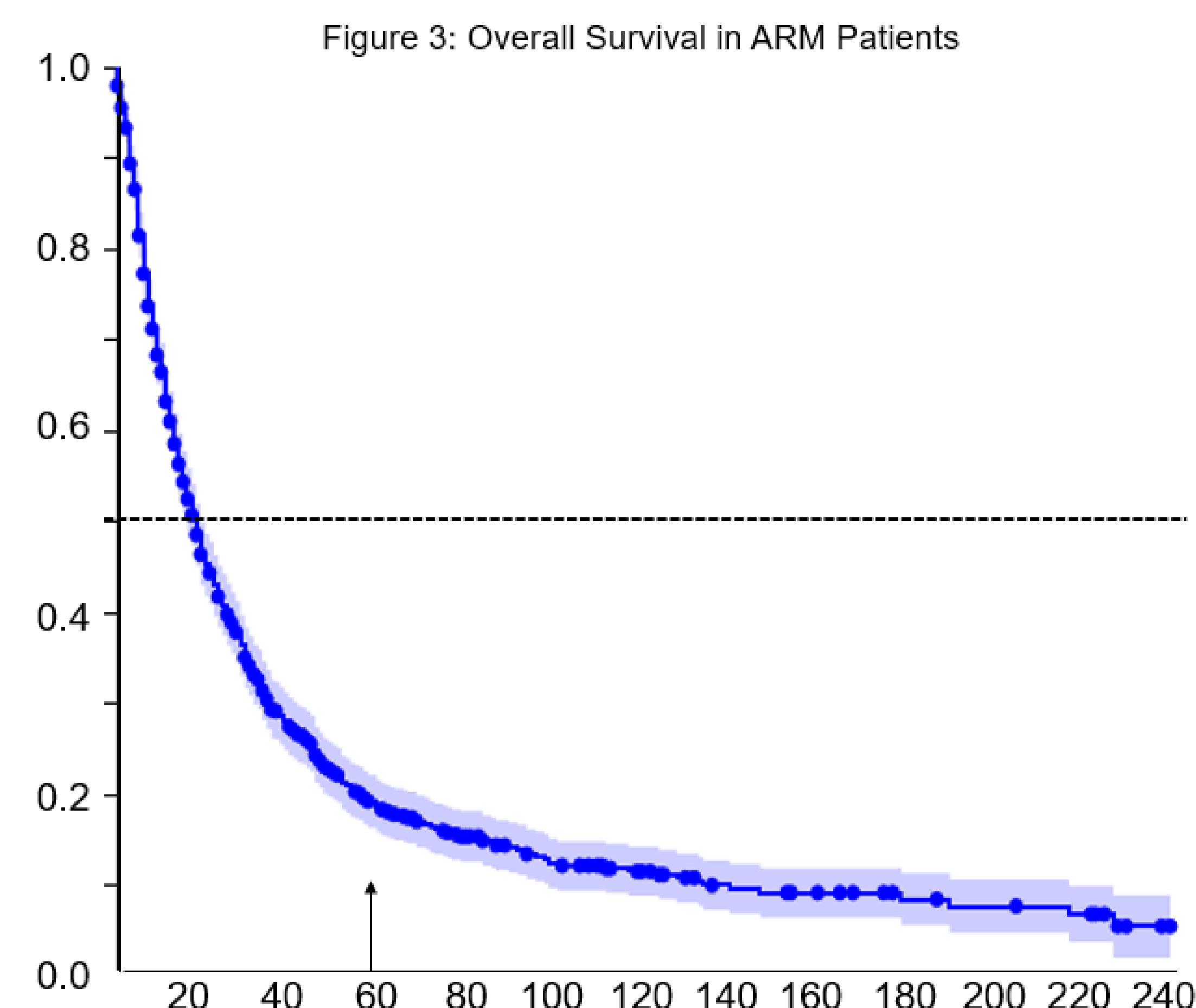
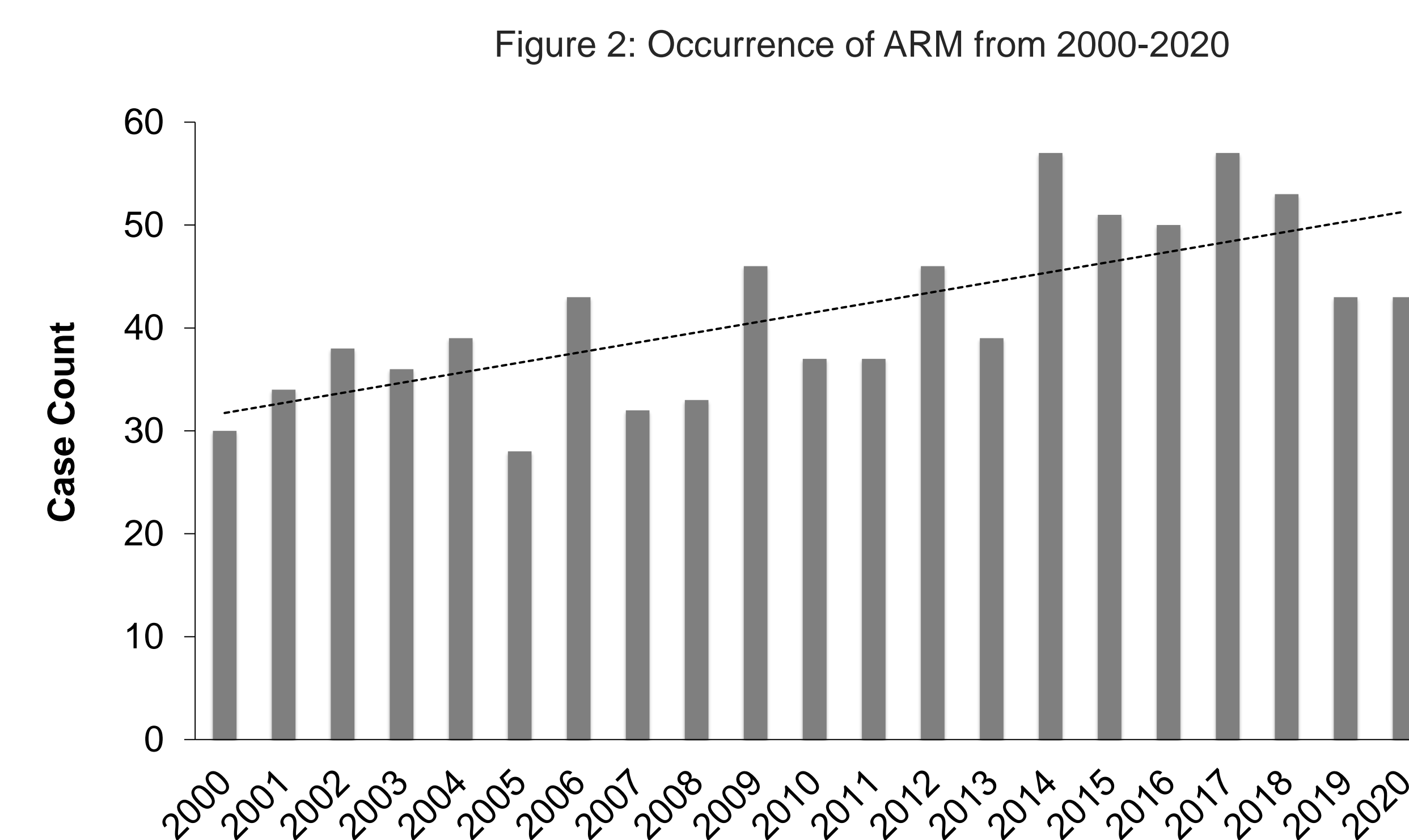
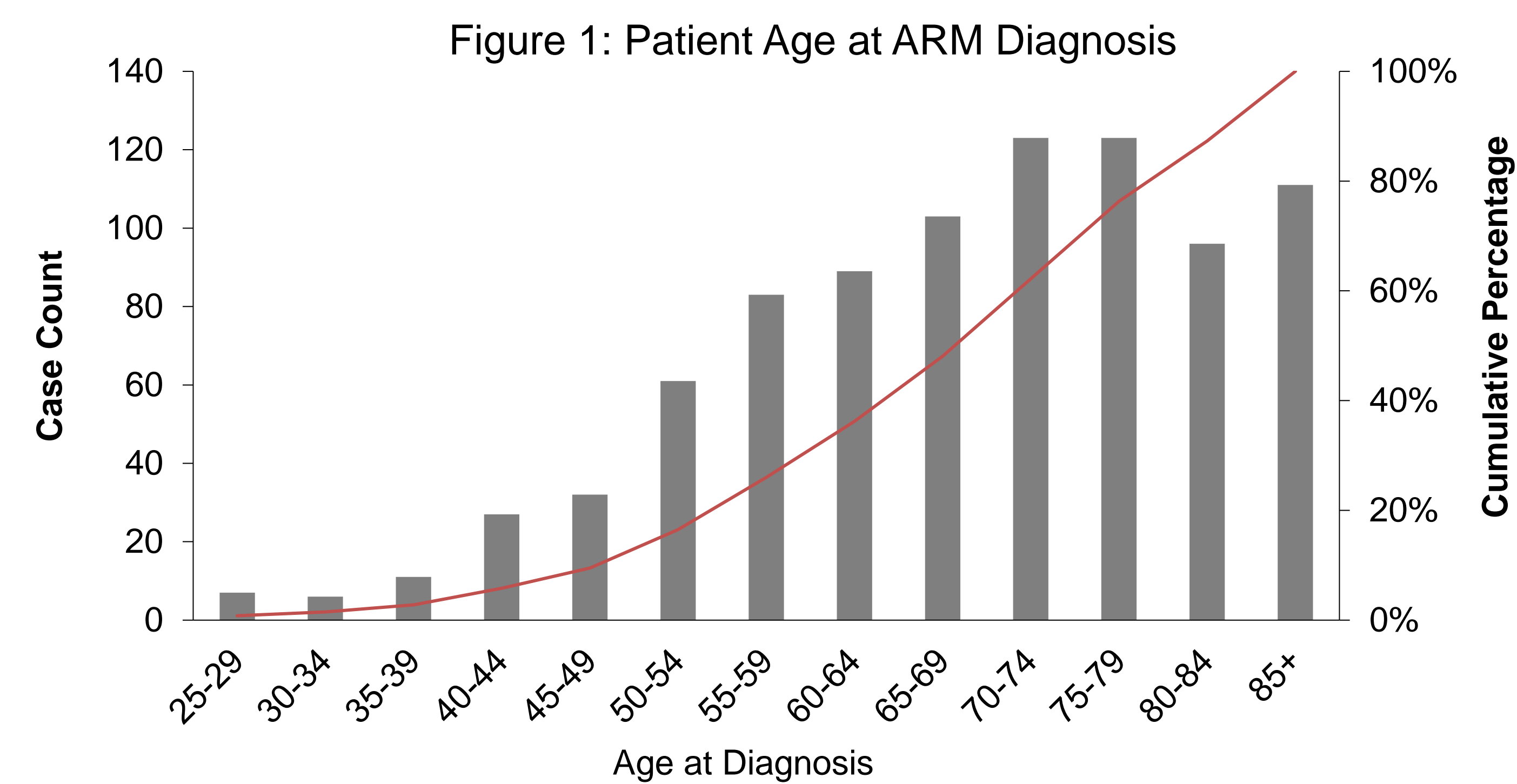
RESULTS

- 872 patients were included in the study. The overall survival rate was 21.4% with a median survival of 18 months.
- Patients who underwent surgery without chemotherapy (group 2) exhibited the longest median survival of 26 months, and a 5-year survival rate of 25.7% compared to the other groups ($p < 0.0001$; log-rank test).
- ER compared to LE has higher median survival time (34 months vs. 23 months) and 5-year survival rate (33% vs. 23.5%) ($p < 0.05$; log-rank test).
- The occurrence of the disease increased over time from 2000 to 2020, and 9.50% of ARM patients were diagnosed before age 50, or when recommended colorectal cancer screening begins.

CONCLUSIONS

- Surgical interventions alone, specifically ER, had better outcomes relative to other treatment groups.
- Chemotherapy for patients with ARM ultimately contributes to enhancing patient care and outcomes of this aggressive disease.

FIGURES



FIGURES

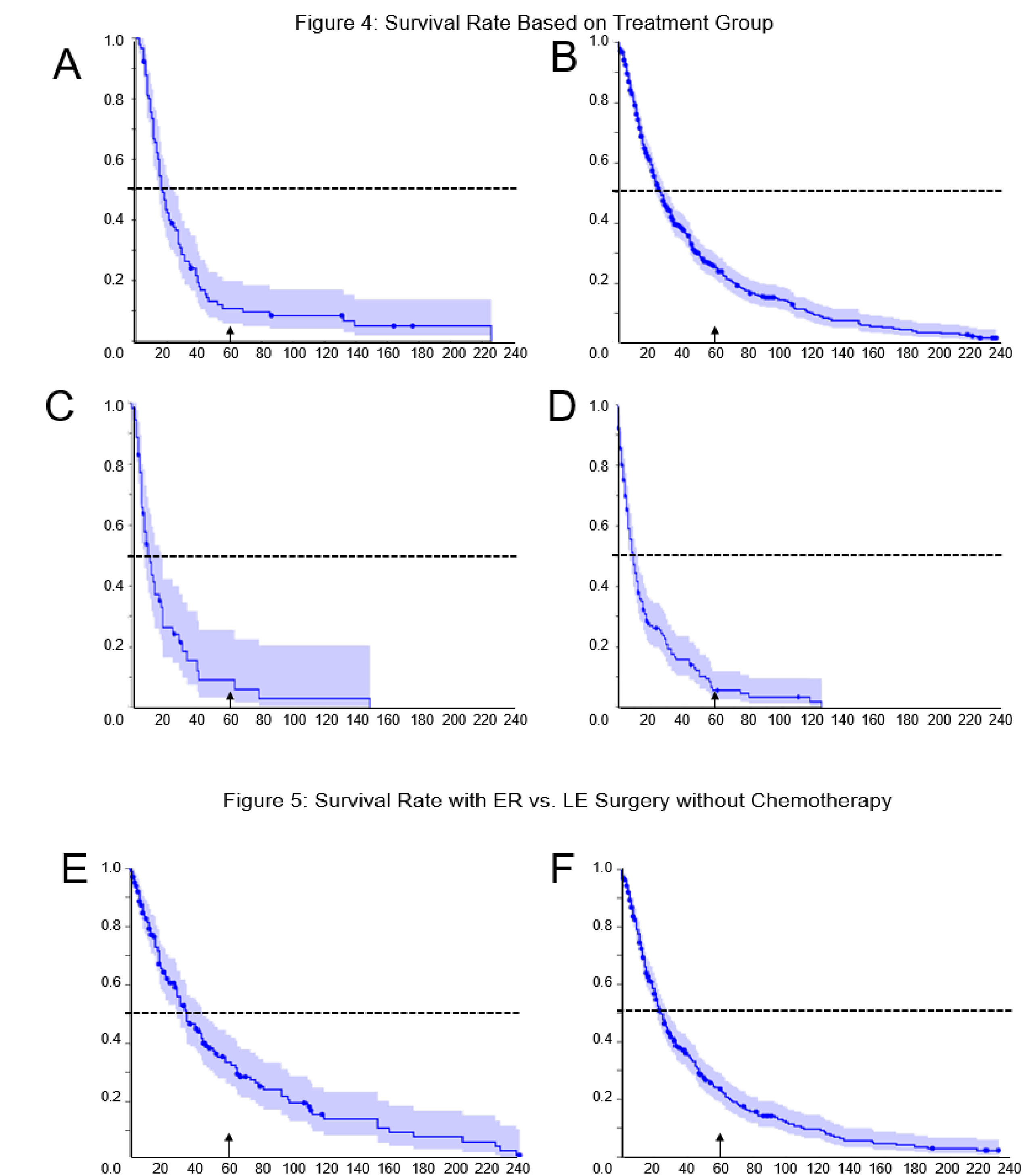


Table 1. Survival Outcomes per Treatment Group

Treatment Group	N=	Median Survival	5-Year Survival	Overall Survival
Surgery (ER + LE) with chemotherapy (A)	91	16 months (95% CI, 14-21)	10.8% *	8%
Surgery (ER + LE) without chemotherapy (B)	556	26 months (95% CI, 23-29)	25.7% *	26%
ER without chemotherapy (E)	161	34 months (95% CI, 27-43)	33% **	28%
LE without chemotherapy (F)	378	23 months (95% CI, 20-27)	23.5% **	25%
No surgery with chemotherapy (C)	53	9 months (95% CI, 6-14)	9.2% *	13%
No surgery or chemotherapy (D)	168	8 months (95% CI, 6-10)	5.5% *	18%

*, $p < 0.00001$

** , $p < 0.05$