

Article title:

Disease history and risk of comorbidity in the women's life course: a comprehensive analysis of the Japan Nurses' Health Study baseline survey

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1 ABSTRACT

2 Objective:

3 To classify diseases based on age at peak incidence to identify the risk factors for later
4 disease in the women's life course.

5 Design:

6 A cross-sectional baseline survey of participants in the Japan Nurses' Health Study.

7 Setting:

8 A nationwide, prospective cohort study on the health of Japanese nurses. The baseline
9 survey was conducted between 2001 and 2007 (n=49 927).

10 Main outcome measures:

11 Age at peak incidence for 20 diseases from a survey of Japanese women was estimated
12 using the Kaplan–Meier method with the kernel smoothing technique. The incidence rate
13 and peak incidence for diseases whose peak incidence occurred before the age of 45 years
14 or before the perimenopausal period were selected as early-onset diseases. The odds ratio
15 (OR) and 95% confidence interval (95% CI) were estimated to examine the risk of
16 comorbidity between early-onset and other diseases.

17 Results:

18 Four early-onset diseases (endometriosis, anaemia, migraine headache, and uterine
19 myoma) were significantly correlated with one another. Late-onset diseases significantly
20 associated (OR >2) with early-onset diseases included comorbid endometriosis with

21 ovarian cancer (3.65 [2.16–6.19]), endometrial cancer (2.40 [1.14–5.04]), and cerebral
22 infarction (2.10 [1.15–3.85]); comorbid anaemia with gastric cancer (3.69 [2.68–5.08]);
23 comorbid migraine with transient ischemic attack (3.06 [2.29–4.09]), osteoporosis (2.11
24 ([1.71–2.62]), cerebral infarction (2.04 [1.26–3.30]), and angina pectoris (2.00 [1.49–
25 2.67]); and comorbid uterine myoma with colorectal cancer (2.31 [1.48–3.61]).

26 Conclusions:

27 While there were significant associations between four early-onset diseases, women with
28 a history of one or more of the early-onset diseases had a higher risk of other diseases
29 later in life course. Understanding the history of early-onset diseases in women may help
30 reduce the subsequent risk of chronic diseases in later life.

31 Key words:

32 Comorbidity, women's health, life-course approach, early-onset diseases

33

34 ARTICLE SUMMARY

35 Article focus:

36 Women experience different diseases at different life stages according to reproductive
37 health events. We attempted to classify the age at peak incidence of disease and examined
38 the risk of comorbidities.

39 Key messages:

40 The age at peak incidence of diseases in Japanese women varies in the premenopausal,

41 perimenopausal, and postmenopausal periods. The associations found in this
42 comprehensive study between early-onset diseases (those with a peak incidence before 45
43 years of age) and other diseases suggest that women with a history of early-onset diseases
44 have a higher risk of other diseases later in life course. Understanding the history of
45 early-onset diseases in women may help reduce the subsequent risk of chronic diseases in
46 later life.

47 Strengths and limitations of this study:

48 Our study population, which was composed entirely of nurses, are likely to report such
49 information more accurately than the general population because of their medical
50 knowledge and clinical experience. We have no reason to suspect that the general
51 population of women would differ in terms of risk of comorbidity between early-onset
52 and other diseases later in life course.

53

54 Introduction

55 Women experience various diseases at different life stages that correspond with
56 reproductive health-related events such as menarche and menopause.¹ In particular,
57 postmenarchal and premenopausal women may develop oestrogen-dependent diseases
58 such as endometriosis and uterine myoma.² While some diseases decline in frequency
59 after menopause, others, such as hyperlipidaemia, occur more frequently, demonstrating
60 that menopause represents a major transition event in a woman's life course.³⁻⁵

61 In women's health, it is important to understand how the history of gynaecological
62 diseases that occur during premenopausal ages affects the risk of diseases that occur
63 during perimenopausal or postmenopausal ages, from a life-course epidemiological point
64 of view. A number of previous studies have highlighted the co-occurrence of
65 gynaecological diseases with other disorders, such as the increased risk of ovarian cancer
66 in women with endometriosis,⁶ the association between blood oestrogen levels and
67 migraine in women,^{7 8} and the link between migraine and cardiovascular risk.⁹ However,
68 few epidemiological studies have comprehensively examined the risks of comorbidity
69 between early-onset gynaecological diseases and other subsequent chronic diseases in
70 later life.

71 The Japan Nurses' Health Study (JNHS) is a large-scale prospective cohort study
72 investigating the effects of lifestyle, healthcare practices, and history of diseases on
73 women's health.¹⁰ In the cross-sectional baseline mail survey of the study, we

74 investigated the prevalence of past diagnosis and age at first diagnosis for various
75 diseases. The study population was designed for female registered nurses, public health
76 nurses, and midwives who were at least 25 years of age and resident in Japan at the
77 baseline survey. Nurses were preferred as the study population because they were
78 expected to accurately report medical information such as disease history. The objectives
79 of this study were to classify diseases that occur frequently in women by identifying age
80 at peak incidence and demonstrating their co-occurrence with other diseases based on the
81 JNHS baseline data.

82

83 Methods

84 Survey participants

85 The study population comprised 49 927 female nurses who participated between 2001
86 and 2007 in the cross-sectional baseline survey of the JNHS, a nationwide prospective
87 cohort study. The size of the study population was set to detect an increase of 1.5 or more
88 in relative risk in the 10-year follow-up phase of the JNHS. The details of the study plan
89 and the sample size calculation have been presented elsewhere.^{5, 10} Data were obtained
90 from a self-administered postal questionnaire covering a range of health topics including
91 lifestyle habits, disease history, reproductive health, and medication use.¹⁰ We included 48
92 632 women whose responses to the questions on disease histories were completed. The
93 JNHS study protocol was approved by the institutional review boards of Gunma

94 University and the National Institute of Public Health. Participants were informed of the
95 study's purpose and procedures before recruitment. Written informed consent was
96 provided before participation in the cohort study.

97

98 Medical history questionnaire

99 Disease history was ascertained using a questionnaire. The baseline survey investigated
100 subjects' medical histories and obtained information on previous diagnoses, age at first
101 diagnosis and treatment histories for a range of major medical disorders.

102

103 Diseases analysed and definition of comorbidity

104 We excluded diseases from the analysis that had a prevalence based on the diagnosis
105 history of less than 0.001. We analysed 20 diseases including hypertension, angina
106 pectoris, subarachnoid haemorrhage, cerebral infarction, transient ischemic attack (TIA),
107 diabetes mellitus, thyroid disease, hypercholesterolemia, cholelithiasis, endometriosis,
108 uterine myoma, cervical cancer, endometrial cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, gastric
109 cancer, colorectal cancer, osteoporosis, anaemia, and migraine. Comorbidity was defined
110 as the co-occurrence of two diseases based on a subject's disease history at baseline
111 survey regardless of the timing of disease onset.

112

113 Statistical analysis

114 We estimated the cumulative incidence and 95% confidence interval (95% CI) by
115 Kaplan–Meier survival analysis (product-limit method). In the survival analyses, we
116 treated incidence at the age of first diagnosis as an event in women with a history of the
117 disease and the observation was censored at the age recorded in the baseline survey in
118 women without a history of the disease.¹¹ We estimated the age at peak incidence using
119 the kernel smoothing method (Epanechnikov kernel) and defined early-onset diseases
120 (diseases occurring frequently before the perimenopausal period) as those having a peak
121 incidence at less than 45 years of age.¹²

122 To examine the risk of comorbidity between the early-onset diseases and other
123 diseases, odds ratios (ORs) and 95% CIs were calculated. A statistical analysis was
124 conducted to examine homogeneity by the Breslow–Day test and to estimate a common
125 odds ratio by the Mantel–Haenszel method between the two age groups (<50 years or \geq 50
126 years). The crude ORs were also calculated as part of a sensitivity analysis. Statistical
127 significance was set at the 5% level (two-tailed) and no adjustments were made for
128 multiplicity. All analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc.,
129 Cary, NC, USA).

130

131 Results

132 Subject characteristics

133 Of the 49 927 women who participated in the JNHS baseline survey, 48 632 who

134 responded to the questions of disease histories were included in the analysis. The average
135 age (SD) at the time of the baseline survey was 41.2 (7.9) years. The smoking prevalence
136 in the study population was 17.2% (Table 1). In addition, 22.7% of respondents reported
137 consuming alcoholic beverages more than three times per week. Most women, 32 642
138 (67.1%), were married at the time of the baseline survey and 32 295 (66.4%) were parous.
139 Only 6086 women (12.5%) were postmenopausal. The average reported age at
140 menopause (SD) in the postmenopausal women was 49.1 (4.4) years.

141

142 Incidence of past diagnosis by disease

143 The cumulative incidences estimated by the Kaplan–Meier method at 30, 40, 50, and
144 60 years of age are shown in Table 2. The high cumulative incidence at 50 years of age,
145 around the mean age at menopause, was 29.0% for anaemia, 18.9% for uterine myoma,
146 13.0% for hypercholesterolemia, 10.7% for migraine headache, 9.0% for hypertension,
147 7.4% for endometriosis, and 6.0% for thyroid disease.

148 Based on the age at peak incidence of disease estimated by kernel smoothing, the early-
149 onset diseases that had a peak of incidence before 45 years of age (before the
150 perimenopausal period) were endometriosis (36.0 years), anaemia (36.0 years), migraine
151 headache (44.8 years), uterine myoma (44.8 years) and cervical cancer (44.8 years).
152 Figure 1-a shows the kernel smoothing estimates of incidence for these early-onset
153 diseases. The peak incidence of thyroid disease, breast cancer and cholelithiasis occurred

154 between 45 and 54 years of age, or in the perimenopausal period (Figure 1-b). For the
155 other 12 diseases (subarachnoid haemorrhage, TIA, endometrial cancer, diabetes mellitus,
156 gastric cancer, cerebral infarction, ovarian cancer, colorectal cancer, angina pectoris,
157 osteoporosis, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia), the peak incidence occurred after
158 55 years of age, or in the postmenopausal period (Table 2).

159

160 Comorbidity among early-onset diseases

161 The early-onset diseases were endometriosis, anaemia, migraine, uterine myoma and
162 cervical cancer. Four early-onset diseases (endometriosis, anaemia, migraine headache,
163 and uterine myoma) were significantly correlated with one another (Table 3). It is worth
164 noting that the OR (95% CI) for comorbid endometriosis and uterine myoma was 4.47
165 (4.09–4.87).

166

167 Comorbidity of four early-onset diseases and other diseases

168 The study population was stratified by age at survey into two strata, less than 50 years
169 and 50 years of age or older. Examination of ORs for homogeneity across strata using the
170 Breslow–Day test revealed that the risk of comorbidity was statistically heterogeneous for
171 hypertension and hypercholesterolemia in women with endometriosis, diabetes mellitus,
172 osteoporosis, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia in women with anaemia, thyroid
173 disease, diabetes mellitus, angina pectoris, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia in

174 women with uterine myoma (Table 3). In all of those comorbidities, the OR in the older
175 age stratum was lower than in the younger age stratum. The strength of the association
176 was diminished in the older stratum. The only statistically negative association of
177 anaemia and diabetes mellitus was also heterogeneous between age strata (Breslow–Day
178 test: $P=0.028$), indicating that the negative association was stronger in the older stratum,
179 with the OR changing from 0.86 in <50 years to 0.54 in the ≥ 50 years of age stratum.

180 The common ORs (95% CI) greater than 2.00 for comorbid endometriosis were 3.65
181 (2.16–6.19), 2.40 (1.14–5.04) and 2.10 (1.15–3.85) for ovarian cancer, endometrial cancer
182 and cerebral infarction, respectively. The common OR greater than 2.00 for comorbid
183 anaemia was 3.69 (2.68–5.08) for gastric cancer. The common OR for comorbid anaemia
184 and diabetes mellitus was significantly lower, 0.68 (0.56–0.84). The common ORs greater
185 than 2.00 for comorbid migraine headache were 3.06 (2.29–4.09), 2.11 (1.71–2.62), 2.04
186 (1.26–3.30) and 2.00 (1.49–2.67) for TIA, osteoporosis, cerebral infarction and angina
187 pectoris, respectively. The common OR greater than 2.00 for comorbid uterine myoma
188 was 2.31 (1.48–3.61) for colorectal cancer only (Table 3). The crude ORs without
189 stratification were used in a sensitivity analysis. Similar estimates were obtained (data not
190 shown).

191

192 Discussion

193 The age at peak incidence of diseases in Japanese women varies in the premenopausal,

194 perimenopausal, and postmenopausal periods. The early-onset diseases (those with a peak
195 incidence before 45 years of age) were endometriosis, anaemia, migraine headache,
196 uterine myoma and cervical cancer. The associations found in this comprehensive study
197 between early-onset diseases and other diseases suggest that women with a history of
198 early-onset diseases have a higher risk of other diseases later in life course.
199 Understanding the history of early-onset diseases in women may help reduce any
200 subsequent risk of chronic diseases in later life.

201 In this study, we observed a skewed age distribution because of the smaller sample size
202 of participants aged 50 years or older. We stratified the study population by age at the
203 time of the survey into two strata (<50 years and \geq 50 years of age) and examined the
204 homogeneity of ORs between the age groups. In addition, we estimated the common ORs
205 between the two age groups instead of overall crude ORs to adjust for the skewed age
206 distribution. However, statistical significance in the comorbidity of very late-onset
207 diseases such as osteoporosis was unlikely because of the small sample size in the older
208 age group.

209 For endometriosis, the estimated age at peak incidence was 36.0 years of age and the
210 cumulative incidence at 50 years of age was 7.4%; thus, endometriosis could be
211 considered a common gynaecological disorder in relatively young women. Endometriosis
212 is characterized by excessive growth of extra-uterine endometrial tissue, resulting in
213 subsequent bleeding into the abdominal cavity and ovaries, and presenting with

214 symptoms such as peritonitis and painful defecation or urination. While levels of high-
215 sensitivity C-reactive protein (CRP), a marker of inflammation, have been found to be
216 significantly higher in women with endometriosis,¹³ other studies have reported an
217 association between elevated blood levels of high-sensitivity CRP and ischemic stroke.¹⁴
218 ¹⁵ Inflammation resulting from endometriosis may therefore also be linked with an
219 increased risk of ischemic stroke. Our results suggest that endometriosis may increase the
220 risk of cerebral infarction and TIA by triggering inflammation. The OR (95% CI) for
221 comorbid endometriosis and ovarian cancer was 3.65 (2.16–6.19), which supports the
222 conclusions of a previous study that found that endometriosis increases the risk of
223 developing ovarian cancer.⁶

224 Anaemia was found to have the higher cumulative incidence (29.0% at 50 years of
225 age). Anaemia is highly prevalent among women and may be diagnosed following
226 pregnancy or heavy menstrual bleeding caused by uterine myoma. In the present study,
227 the peak incidence for anaemia occurred at 36.0 years of age. Our results imply that
228 relatively young, premenopausal women are more susceptible to anaemia than older,
229 postmenopausal women. Our results also suggest a strong association between anaemia
230 and gastric cancer. While anaemia can occur because of gastrectomy,¹⁶ pernicious
231 anaemia is associated with an increased risk of gastric cancer.^{17–19} The causal pathway,
232 including a reverse effect, could not be determined because of the study's cross-sectional
233 design. This study had a novel finding in that there was a significant negative association

234 between anaemia and diabetes mellitus. Several studies have reported that body iron
235 stores or elevated ferritin concentrations were associated with an increased risk of type 2
236 diabetes mellitus,^{20 21} potentially supporting our finding of the negative association
237 between anaemia and diabetes mellitus.

238 Age at incidence peak of migraine headache was 44.8 years. Several studies reported
239 that migraine was associated with oestrogen levels,^{7 8} and the incidence significantly
240 increased from menarche onwards.^{22 23} Migraine also increased the risk of ischemic
241 stroke and cardiovascular disease in another study.⁹ The present study's findings of a
242 significantly enhanced risk of TIA, cerebral infarction and angina pectoris in migraine
243 sufferers appear to support this.

244 The cumulative incidence at 50 years of age of uterine myoma was 18.9%. Although
245 uterine myoma is often asymptomatic, we diagnosed a number of participants with the
246 condition after undergoing cancer screening or a prenatal test. Uterine myoma is
247 associated with elevated body mass index (BMI)²⁴ and body fat percentage,²⁵ suggesting
248 that uterine myoma may be associated with obesity. Obesity is also associated with an
249 increased risk of colon cancer.^{26 27} The OR of comorbid colorectal cancer was 2.31 (1.48–
250 3.61) in this study, suggesting that obesity is a potential common risk factor for uterine
251 myoma and colorectal cancer.

252 The estimated age at peak incidence of not only the early-onset diseases, but also other
253 diseases in this study, revealed the nature of diseases in a woman's life course. The

254 diseases included hypercholesterolemia, hypertension and osteoporosis, which occur
255 more frequently among postmenopausal women over 60 years of age. The cumulative
256 incidences at 60 years of age for hypercholesterolemia, hypertension and osteoporosis
257 were 41.3%, 23.4% and 6.7%, respectively, and these diseases exhibited a marked
258 increase in incidence after the perimenopausal period.

259 The peak incidence for breast cancer occurred at 50.0 years (Figure 1-b), indicating
260 that Japanese women are more likely to develop the disease before menopause rather than
261 after the perimenopausal period. Our results suggest that, unlike women in Western
262 countries where the incidence of breast cancer increases with age even after menopause,²⁸
263 the incidence among women in Japan and other Asian settings exhibits a bell-shaped
264 pattern with a peak at 45–50 years.²⁹ Our findings therefore support the current consensus
265 that the incidence of breast cancer in Japan is higher before menopause than after.

266 The present study has several limitations. In this study, we defined disease onset as a
267 diagnosis by a medical doctor that was reported on the self-administered questionnaire.
268 Participants could only report a diagnosis; asymptomatic or undiagnosed diseases were
269 excluded. Use of diagnoses rather than self-reported prevalence may affect correlation in
270 some diseases. Information on disease diagnosis was based on self-reporting, which may
271 have led to a misclassification of diagnoses. However, nurses are likely to report such
272 information more accurately than the general population because of their medical
273 knowledge and clinical experience. In addition, our study population, which was

274 composed entirely of nurses, was likely to exhibit different health behaviours and be
275 exposed to different risk factors compared with the general Japanese population. Thus,
276 our findings may not be generalizable to the national population, reducing the present
277 study's external validity. However, we have no reason to suspect that the general
278 population of women would differ in terms of risk of comorbidity between early-onset
279 and other diseases later in life course. Additionally, data on disease histories were
280 collected retrospectively, so only living participants were included in the survey. This
281 may have led to an underestimation of disease incidence. Furthermore, we were unable to
282 determine the causal relationship between comorbidities because of the cross-sectional
283 design. Recall bias may have caused overestimation of ORs since sick people tend to
284 report more about disease history. However, the participants were nurses we think that
285 recall bias was minimized since they have medical knowledge and are more likely to have
286 answered correctly. A further analysis of the JNHS cohort using follow-up data is needed
287 to determine the causal relationships between these comorbidities. Finally, women over
288 the age of 60 years were underrepresented relative to other age groups in the study.

289

290 Conclusions

291 While there were significant associations between the four early-onset diseases
292 (endometriosis, anaemia, migraine headache, and uterine myoma), women with a history
293 of early-onset diseases had a higher risk of other diseases later in life course.

294 Understanding the history of early-onset diseases in women may help reduce the
295 subsequent risk of chronic diseases in later life. Further research based on follow-up
296 studies is needed to clarify the cause–effect associations between these diseases.

297

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302 native-English-speaking science editor.

303

304 Contributorship statement:

305 K Nagai analysed the data and drafted the report. K Hayashi designed and initiated the
306 study. K Nagai, K Hayashi, T Yasui, and K Katanoda contributed to interpretation and
307 discussion of the data and writing of the report. K Nagai, K Hayashi, T Yasui, K
308 Katanoda, H Iso, Y Kiyohara, A Wakatsuki, T Kubota, and H Mizunuma approved the
309 final draft to be published and agreed to account for all aspects of the work in ensuring
310 that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately
311 investigated and resolved.

312

313 Competing interest:

314 The authors report no competing interest.

315

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319

320 Data sharing statement:

321 Not available.

322

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Figure legend

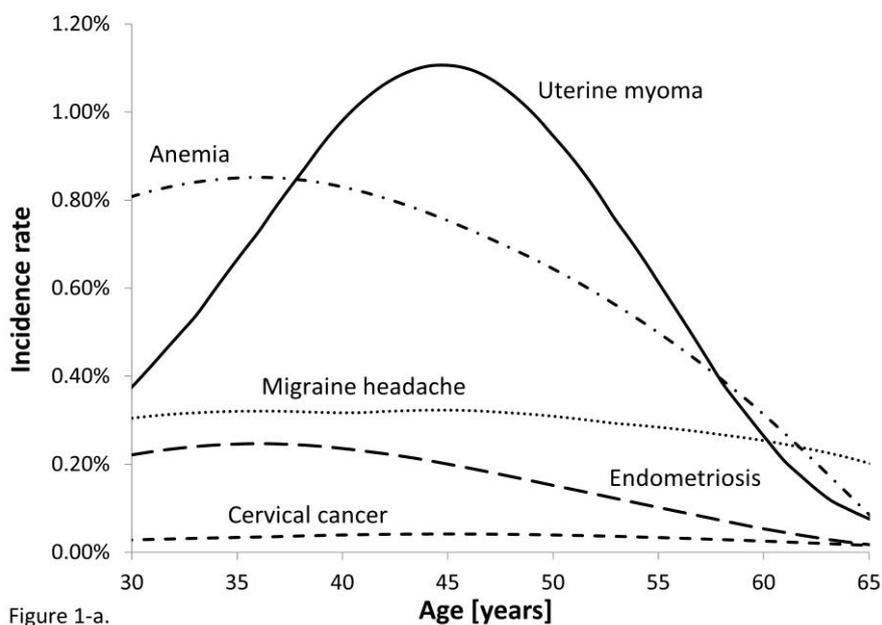


Figure 1-a. Kernel-smoothing estimates of incidence for early-onset diseases with a peak incidence before 45 years of age.

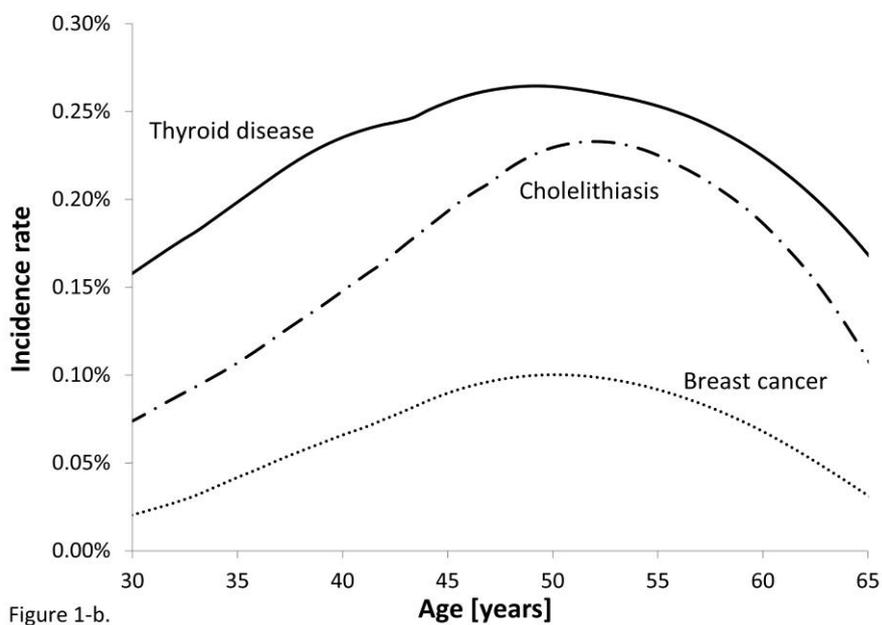


Figure 1-b. Kernel-smoothing estimates of incidence for diseases with a peak incidence between 45 and 54 years of age.

Table 1. Characteristics of study population at baseline survey.

Characteristics	N	Proportion
Age (year)		
<30	938	1.9%
30-34	11 174	23.0%
35-39	10 163	20.9%
40-44	9 656	19.9%
45-49	8 155	16.8%
50-54	5 929	12.2%
55-59	2 217	4.6%
60-64	339	0.7%
65≤	61	0.1%
Smoking status		
Non-smoker	33 918	69.7%
Current smoker	8 388	17.2%
Ex-smoker	5 648	11.6%
Missing	678	1.4%
Alcohol intake		
Non-drinker	14 224	29.2%
< 3day / week	20 391	41.9%
≥ 3day / week	11 024	22.7%
Missing	2 993	6.2%
Marital status		
Unmarried	11 633	23.9%
Married	32 642	67.1%
Divorced	2 850	5.9%
Separated / Widowed	980	2.0%
Missing	527	1.1%
Pregnancy		
Never	12 786	26.3%
Ever	33 618	69.1%
Missing	2 228	4.6%
Delivery		
Never	14 328	29.5%
Ever	32 295	66.4%
Missing	2 009	4.1%
Menopause status		
Pre-menopause	40 010	82.3%
Post-menopause	6 086	12.5%
Unknown	1 947	4.0%
Missing	589	1.2%

Table 2. Incidence peak and cumulative incidence for Kaplan–Meier estimate.

	Incidence peak¶ [%]	Age at incidence peak [years]	Cumulative incidence [%]									
			30 years		40 years		50 years		60 years			
			K-M estimate	95% CI	K-M estimate	95% CI	K-M estimate	95% CI	K-M estimate	95% CI		
Endometriosis	0.25	36.0	2.19	2.07 – 2.33	4.91	4.70 – 5.12	7.36	7.06 – 7.67	7.76	7.41 – 8.12		
Anaemia	0.85	36.0	12.4	12.1 – 12.7	19.2	18.8 – 19.5	29.0	28.5 – 29.6	31.8	31.1 – 32.6		
Migraine headache	0.32	44.8	4.51	4.32 – 4.70	7.68	7.43 – 7.93	10.7	10.3 – 11.1	12.8	12.2 – 13.5		
Uterine myoma	1.11	44.8	1.22	1.12 – 1.32	6.81	6.56 – 7.07	18.9	18.3 – 19.4	22.9	22.1 – 23.7		
Cervical cancer	0.04	44.8	0.09	0.06 – 0.12	0.57	0.50 – 0.65	1.11	0.98 – 1.25	1.37	1.13 – 1.65		
Thyroid disease	0.26	49.2	1.60	1.49 – 1.71	3.41	3.24 – 3.59	6.00	5.71 – 6.31	9.39	8.64 – 10.2		
Breast cancer	0.10	50.0	0.04	0.03 – 0.06	0.33	0.27 – 0.39	1.50	1.33 – 1.70	2.72	2.20 – 3.37		
Cholelithiasis	0.23	52.2	0.44	0.38 – 0.50	1.42	1.30 – 1.54	3.26	3.03 – 3.50	6.15	5.42 – 6.96		
Subarachnoid haemorrhage	0.03	55.1	0.01	0.01 – 0.03	0.05	0.03 – 0.08	0.17	0.12 – 0.24	0.44	0.27 – 0.74		
Transient ischemic attack	0.07	55.1	0.14	0.11 – 0.18	0.29	0.24 – 0.35	0.66	0.56 – 0.77	1.50	1.10 – 2.04		
Endometrial cancer	0.02	55.9	0.00	0.00 – 0.01	0.04	0.03 – 0.07	0.16	0.11 – 0.24	0.51	0.32 – 0.81		
Diabetes mellitus	0.38	57.3	0.08	0.06 – 0.11	0.41	0.35 – 0.49	1.92	1.73 – 2.14	6.49	5.57 – 7.55		
Gastric cancer	0.05	57.3	0.03	0.02 – 0.05	0.16	0.12 – 0.21	0.52	0.42 – 0.63	0.98	0.67 – 1.43		
Cerebral infarction	0.11	58.8	0.02	0.01 – 0.03	0.06	0.04 – 0.10	0.28	0.21 – 0.37	1.36	0.95 – 1.94		
Ovarian cancer	0.06	63.9	0.06	0.04 – 0.08	0.13	0.10 – 0.17	0.28	0.21 – 0.36	0.38	0.25 – 0.57		
Colorectal cancer	0.14†	≥65*	0.01	0.00 – 0.02	0.04	0.03 – 0.07	0.34	0.26 – 0.45	0.97	0.70 – 1.34		
Angina pectoris	0.56†	≥65*	0.04	0.03 – 0.06	0.20	0.16 – 0.25	0.99	0.85 – 1.15	3.03	2.46 – 3.74		
Osteoporosis	2.23†	≥65*	0.07	0.05 – 0.09	0.26	0.21 – 0.32	1.18	1.03 – 1.35	6.73	5.73 – 7.89		
Hypertension	3.86†	≥65*	0.36	0.31 – 0.42	1.74	1.61 – 1.88	9.05	8.62 – 9.49	23.4	21.9 – 25.0		
Hypercholesterolemia	4.74†	≥65*	0.94	0.86 – 1.03	3.27	3.10 – 3.45	13.0	12.5 – 13.5	41.3	39.4 – 43.2		

* Age at incidence peak was undetermined because age-specific incidence was hockey stick-shaped until age 65 years.

† Incidence at 65 years of age.

¶ Incidence peak was estimated by kernel-smoothing technique.

Table 3. Mantel–Haenszel common odds ratios (95% confidence interval) for comorbidities.

	Endometriosis			Anaemia			Migraine			Uterine myoma		
	MH OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value for Breslow–Day test	MH OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value for Breslow–Day test	MH OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value for Breslow–Day test	MH OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> value for Breslow–Day test
Endometriosis				2.31	(2.14 – 2.50)	0.225	1.96	(1.77 – 2.17)	0.652	4.47	(4.09 – 4.87)	0.449
Anaemia	2.31	(2.14 – 2.50)	0.225				2.13	(2.01 – 2.27)	0.045	2.73	(2.57 – 2.90)	0.410
Migraine headache	1.96	(1.77 – 2.17)	0.652	2.13	(2.01 – 2.27)	0.045				1.30	(1.20 – 1.42)	0.246
Uterine myoma	4.47	(4.09 – 4.87)	0.449	2.73	(2.57 – 2.90)	0.410	1.30	(1.20 – 1.42)	0.246			
Cervical cancer	1.12	(0.74 – 1.69)	0.969	0.82	(0.64 – 1.06)	0.093	1.32	(0.98 – 1.78)	0.203	1.39	(1.04 – 1.85)	0.412
Thyroid disease	1.49	(1.27 – 1.75)	0.595	1.18	(1.07 – 1.31)	0.306	1.24	(1.09 – 1.41)	0.073	1.43	(1.27 – 1.61)	0.010
Breast cancer	1.34	(0.91 – 1.96)	0.272	0.76	(0.59 – 0.98)	0.212	0.82	(0.58 – 1.17)	0.061	1.54	(1.19 – 1.99)	0.119
Cholelithiasis	1.31	(1.04 – 1.65)	0.905	1.19	(1.04 – 1.36)	0.348	1.42	(1.20 – 1.69)	0.135	1.68	(1.44 – 1.95)	0.015
Subarachnoid haemorrhage	1.00	(0.31 – 3.22)	0.480	0.67	(0.32 – 1.38)	0.385	1.50	(0.70 – 3.21)	0.663	0.92	(0.41 – 2.05)	0.409
Transient ischemic attack	1.91	(1.26 – 2.90)	0.748	1.44	(1.09 – 1.90)	0.899	3.06	(2.29 – 4.09)	0.384	1.38	(0.99 – 1.94)	0.529
Endometrial cancer	2.40	(1.14 – 5.04)	0.632	1.20	(0.68 – 2.09)	0.110	1.97	(1.05 – 3.70)	0.634	0.78	(0.35 – 1.74)	0.678
Diabetes mellitus	1.09	(0.79 – 1.51)	0.128	0.68	(0.56 – 0.84)	0.028	0.99	(0.77 – 1.28)	0.451	1.45	(1.19 – 1.77)	<0.001
Gastric cancer	0.87	(0.43 – 1.78)	0.946	3.69	(2.68 – 5.08)	0.879	1.06	(0.65 – 1.74)	0.252	1.04	(0.66 – 1.63)	0.539
Cerebral infarction	2.10	(1.15 – 3.85)	0.447	0.89	(0.56 – 1.42)	0.987	2.04	(1.26 – 3.30)	0.581	1.39	(0.85 – 2.25)	0.120
Ovarian cancer	3.65	(2.16 – 6.19)	0.208	0.94	(0.58 – 1.53)	0.995	1.51	(0.85 – 2.66)	0.291	1.60	(0.93 – 2.76)	0.539
Colorectal cancer	1.59	(0.80 – 3.16)	0.594	1.56	(1.02 – 2.37)	0.506	1.78	(1.06 – 2.97)	0.618	2.31	(1.48 – 3.61)	0.384
Angina pectoris	1.55	(1.03 – 2.32)	0.093	1.12	(0.86 – 1.45)	0.170	2.00	(1.49 – 2.67)	0.283	1.45	(1.09 – 1.91)	<0.001
Osteoporosis	1.89	(1.43 – 2.51)	0.532	1.49	(1.24 – 1.80)	0.010	2.11	(1.71 – 2.62)	0.622	1.54	(1.24 – 1.90)	0.441
Hypertension	1.26	(1.07 – 1.47)	0.003	0.98	(0.90 – 1.08)	0.035	1.69	(1.52 – 1.90)	0.455	1.50	(1.35 – 1.66)	<0.001
Hypercholesterolemia	1.30	(1.15 – 1.47)	0.021	1.06	(0.98 – 1.14)	<0.001	1.35	(1.23 – 1.48)	0.237	1.36	(1.25 – 1.48)	<0.001