Patient Age–Associated Mortality Risk Is Differentiated by BRAF V600E Status in Papillary Thyroid Cancer


ABSTRACT

Purpose
For the past 65 years, patient age at diagnosis has been widely used as a major mortality risk factor in the risk stratification of papillary thyroid cancer (PTC), but whether this is generally applicable, particularly in patients with different BRAF genetic backgrounds, is unclear. The current study was designed to test whether patient age at diagnosis is a major mortality risk factor.

Patients and Methods
We conducted a comparative study of the relationship between patient age at diagnosis and PTC-specific mortality with respect to BRAF status in 2,638 patients (623 men and 2,015 women) with a median age of 46 years (interquartile range, 35 to 58 years) at diagnosis and a median follow-up time of 58 months (interquartile range, 26 to 107 months). Eleven medical centers from six countries participated in this study.

Results
There was a linear association between patient age and mortality in patients with BRAF V600E mutation, but not in patients with wild-type BRAF, in whom the mortality rate remained low and flat with increasing age. Kaplan-Meier survival curves rapidly declined with increasing age in patients with BRAF V600E mutation but did not decline in patients with wild-type BRAF, even beyond age 75 years. The association between mortality and age in patients with BRAF V600E was independent of clinicopathologic risk factors. Similar results were observed when only patients with the conventional variant of PTC were analyzed.

Conclusion
The long-observed age-associated mortality risk in PTC is dependent on BRAF status; age is a strong, continuous, and independent mortality risk factor in patients with BRAF V600E mutation but not in patients with wild-type BRAF. These results question the conventional general use of patient age as a high-risk factor in PTC and call for differentiation between patients with BRAF V600E and wild-type BRAF when applying age to risk stratification and management of PTC.


INTRODUCTION

Thyroid cancer is a common endocrine malignancy, and its incidence has rapidly increased in recent decades.1-4 The most common histologic type is papillary thyroid cancer (PTC), accounting for > 85% of all thyroid malignancies, with conventional PTC (CPTC) being the dominant variant.5,6 Risk stratification is a critical component of standard management of thyroid cancer and is currently based mainly on clinicopathologic risk factors, among which patient age at diagnosis is a major factor. In 1953, Crile and Hazard7 described in detail the association between advanced patient age and unfavorable prognosis of thyroid cancer. Since then, numerous studies have confirmed this relationship. Thus, patient age has long been routinely applied as a major risk factor in risk stratification of thyroid cancer, which has profoundly impacted clinical practice in the management of thyroid cancer.8-10

The most important prognostic significance of patient age in thyroid cancer is its effect on patient mortality; older patient age is strongly associated with thyroid cancer–specific mortality.11,12 In fact, thyroid cancer is the only type of cancer for which patient age is a metric for disease staging in the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and
several other staging systems, reflecting the unique importance of patient age as a risk factor in thyroid cancer. The age of 45 years has been conventionally treated as a cutoff point demarcating the age-associated risk in thyroid cancer; however, this has been recently changed to 55 years in the revised eighth edition of AJCC. Yet, some studies have suggested that the mortality risk of thyroid cancer continuously increases as patient age increases. A recent analysis by Adam et al of 31,802 patients with PTC in the SEER database demonstrated that age was associated with PTC-specific mortality in a continuous linear manner without an age cutoff point. However, critical questions remain unanswered as to why older patient age has such a remarkable adverse effect on PTC-specific mortality and whether age is a risk factor universally applicable to all patients with PTC.

The BRAF V600E mutation has been well known to be a main oncogenic driver of PTC, occurring in approximately 45% of patients. Many studies have demonstrated an association between BRAF V600E and older patient age as well as poor clinical outcomes, including recurrence of PTC and PTC-specific mortality. Given these data, we hypothesized that BRAF V600E might play an important role in the effect of patient age on PTC-specific mortality, and that, in the absence of BRAF V600E, patient age might not be a risk factor. We conducted this multicenter study to test this hypothesis.

 PATIENTS AND METHODS

Study Medical Centers, Countries, and Patients

With the approval of the institutional review boards of the participating institutions and, where required, informed written patient consent, data from 2,638 patients with PTC on clinicopathologic characteristics and PTC-specific patient death were collected from 11 medical centers in six countries (Appendix Table A1, online only). These patients included 623 men (23.6%) and 2,015 women (76.4%) and had a median age of 46 years (interquartile range, 35 to 58 years) at diagnosis of PTC and a median clinical follow-up time of 58 months (interquartile range, 26 to 107 months) after the initial surgery. BRAF genetic testing failed in 20 patients, whereas 1,524 patients had wild-type BRAF and 1,094 patients had BRAF V600E mutation. Mortality analysis was focused on PTC-specific patient death, as previously defined (ie, death that occurred as a result of incurable PTC disease that invaded and compromised vital organs, causing the patient to die).

Patient clinicopathologic characteristics that are well-known risk factors for PTC-specific mortality are listed in Table 1. For a separate analysis of patients with PTC, a subset of 1,893 patients with PTC was identified, and exclusion of 14 patients without BRAF information left 996 and 883 patients who had wild-type BRAF and BRAF V600E. All of these patients were consecutively selected and were treated with total or near-total thyroidectomy for PTC; other treatments, such as radioidine ablation, were pursued as clinically indicated. Histopathologic diagnoses of thyroid cancer were established according to the WHO criteria. BRAF V600E mutation in primary PTC was examined and documented as previously described. BRAF V600E mutation status was determined after surgical and medical treatments in all patients and did not affect decision making regarding treatments.

Statistical Analyses

Spearman correlation coefficient was calculated to evaluate the association between patient age and PTC-specific mortality. Variance inflation factor to test multicollinearity was calculated for each clinicopathologic characteristic in the Cox hazards regression model; all variance inflation factors were low (ie, < 1.58), ensuring that multicollinearity was not a problem in the regression models. Multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression models with restricted cubic splines (RCS) and adaptive splines were used to demonstrate the continuous relationship between patient age and PTC-specific mortality. Hazard ratios (HRs) were natural logarithm-transformed and adjusted for multivariate clinicopathologic characteristics. The RCS model (knot number, 3) was used to estimate the HR and 95% CI of different ages compared with age 45 years. Comparing the statistical fitness of different

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>All Patients (N = 2,638)*</th>
<th>Patients With Wild-Type BRAF (n = 1,524)</th>
<th>Patients With BRAF V600E (n = 1,094)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median age at diagnosis, years (IQR)</td>
<td>46 (35-58)</td>
<td>44 (34-56)</td>
<td>48 (36-59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sex, No. (%)</td>
<td>2,015 (76.4)</td>
<td>1,175 (77.1)</td>
<td>822 (75.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median tumor size, cm (IQR)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.0-2.5)</td>
<td>1.5 (0.9-2.5)</td>
<td>1.6 (1.1-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtype, No. (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPTC</td>
<td>1,893 (71.8)</td>
<td>906 (65.4)</td>
<td>883 (80.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FVPTC</td>
<td>525 (19.9)</td>
<td>413 (27.1)</td>
<td>107 (9.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCPTC</td>
<td>100 (3.8)</td>
<td>26 (1.7)</td>
<td>74 (6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>120 (4.5)</td>
<td>89 (5.8)</td>
<td>30 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJCC stage, No./total No. (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>1,819/2,618 (69.5)</td>
<td>1,138/1,512 (75.3)</td>
<td>667/1,086 (61.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>185/2,618 (7.1)</td>
<td>118/1,512 (7.9)</td>
<td>66/1,086 (6.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>414/2,618 (15.8)</td>
<td>174/1,512 (11.5)</td>
<td>235/1,086 (21.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>200/2,618 (7.6)</td>
<td>82/1,512 (5.4)</td>
<td>118/1,086 (10.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extrathyroidal extension, No./total No. (%)</td>
<td>668/2,634 (25.4)</td>
<td>274/1,522 (18.0)</td>
<td>387/1,092 (35.4)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lymph node metastasis, No./total No. (%)</td>
<td>896/2,613 (34.3)</td>
<td>449/1,505 (29.8)</td>
<td>437/1,088 (40.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular invasion, No./total No. (%)</td>
<td>158/1,051 (15.0)</td>
<td>83/693 (12.0)</td>
<td>75/358 (20.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distant metastasis, No./total No. (%)</td>
<td>112/2,618 (4.5)</td>
<td>64/1,508 (4.2)</td>
<td>48/1,087 (5.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median administered activities of 131I, mCi (IQR)</td>
<td>100 (30-100)</td>
<td>78 (0-100)</td>
<td>100 (50-104)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurrence, No. (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II 432 (16.0)</td>
<td>183 (12.0)</td>
<td>239 (21.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTC-specific mortality, No. (%)</td>
<td>58 (2.2)</td>
<td>16 (1.0)</td>
<td>42 (3.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median follow-up time, months (IQR)</td>
<td>58 (26-107)</td>
<td>62 (28-118)</td>
<td>51 (24-96)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; CPTC, conventional papillary thyroid cancer; FVPTC, follicular-variant papillary thyroid cancer; IQR, interquartile range; PTC, papillary thyroid cancer; TCPTC, tall-cell papillary thyroid cancer.

*Including 20 patients with no BRAF information.
RESULTS

Association Between Patient Age and PTC-Specific Mortality in Patients With BRAF V600E But Not Wild-Type BRAF

As shown in Figure 1, before the age of 45 years, the mortality rates (percentages of deaths in the cohort) were low in all of the patient groups. After the age of 45 years, mortality rates increased as patient age increased in all patients, and mortality rates increased even more rapidly in patients with BRAF V600E mutation. However, in striking contrast, there was no increase in mortality overall in patients with wild-type BRAF (Fig 1A). Accumulated mortality rates also increased continuously after age 45 years in all patients and increased even more rapidly and steeply in patients with BRAF V600E mutation, whereas there was only a marginal increase in accumulated mortality in patients with wild-type BRAF at age 45 to 64 years (Fig 1B). After age 65 years, the mortality rate began to decrease (Fig 1A) and the accumulated mortality rate stayed flat (Fig 1B) in patients with wild-type BRAF, whereas both the mortality rate and the accumulated mortality rate continuously and sharply increased as

Fig 1. Relationship between patient age and papillary thyroid cancer (PTC)–specific mortality in all patients, patients with BRAF V600E mutation, and patients with wild-type BRAF. (A) Mortality rates and (B) accumulated mortality rates by patient age in all patients with PTC. (C) Mortality rates and (D) accumulated mortality rates of patients with conventional PTC.
patient age increased in patients with BRAF V600E (Figs 1A and 1B). Spearman correlation analysis showed a strongly positive correlation between patient age and mortality rate in BRAF V600E patients ($P = .002, r = .94$), but the correlation was not significant in wild-type BRAF patients ($P = .36, r = .41$). Virtually identical results were obtained when only patients with CPTC were analyzed (Figs 1C and 1D). Spearman correlation analysis also showed a strongly positive correlation between patient age and mortality in patients with CPTC harboring BRAF V600E ($P < .002, r = .94$), but not in patients with CPTC harboring wild-type BRAF ($P = .70, r = .18$). These results suggest that the association between patient age and PTC-specific mortality depends on BRAF V600E status.

**Rapidly Progressive Decline in Kaplan-Meier Survival Curve With Increasing Age in Patients With BRAF V600E But Not Wild-Type BRAF**

In the analysis of all patients, Kaplan-Meier survival curves progressively declined as patient age increased, particularly after age 45 years; decline was sharpest in patients ≥75 years old (Fig 2A). An even more rapidly progressive decline in survival curve was seen in patients with BRAF V600E as patient age increased (Fig 2B). In striking contrast, there was no progressive decline in survival curve in patients with wild-type BRAF as patient age increased (Fig 2C). Specifically, in patients with BRAF V600E, survival curves in patients younger than 45 years old were largely flat, and only one death occurred in the 25- to 34-year age group at a follow-up time of 300 months. Starting at age 45 years, the older the patients were, the more rapidly the survival curve declined and the most rapid decline occurred in patients ≥75 years old (Fig 2B). Similar results were observed when only patients with CPTC were analyzed (Fig 3). These results demonstrate a BRAF V600E–dependent association between decreasing PTC-specific patient survival and increasing patient age.

**Independent Linear Association Between Mortality Risk and Increasing Age in Patients With BRAF V600E But Not Wild-Type BRAF**

We used multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression models with RCS to further analyze the relationship between patient age and PTC-specific mortality with adjustment for the classic clinicopathologic characteristics of patient sex, tumor size, extrathyroidal extension, lymph node metastasis, distant metastasis, and administered activities of radioactive iodine (mCi), which are factors known to affect clinical outcomes of patients with PTC, as well as study center (Fig 4). To be comparable, for all RCS plots, patient age of 45 years, which was close to the median age of our cohort, was chosen as the reference for HR calculation. In all patients combined, RCS analysis demonstrated a nearly linear association between patient age and PTC-specific mortality risk, with the adjusted log HR continuously increasing as patient age increased (Fig 4A). In patients with BRAF V600E, an even stronger and steeper linear relationship between patient age and adjusted log HR of PTC-specific mortality risk was observed (Fig 4B). In contrast, in patients with wild-type BRAF, no significant relationship was observed between patient age and mortality risk; the mortality risk at various age segments generally did not show significant difference, and the line stayed flat as the patient age increased, even after age 75 years (Fig 4C). The increasing line before age 45 years is a result of the large variance from the low mortality rate in this young patient age range, which displayed insignificant HRs in reference to patient age of 45 years.

![Fig 2. Kaplan-Meier analysis of disease-specific survival curves of patients with papillary thyroid cancer (PTC) in various patient age groups: (A) all patients; (B) patients with BRAF V600E mutation; and (C) patients with wild-type BRAF.](image-url)
The adjusted specific HRs at different age points are presented in Fig 4D. HRs increased from age 20 to 80 years in the analysis of all patients. An even stronger upward trend in HRs was observed from age 20 to 80 years in patients with BRAF V600E, particularly after age 50 years. In contrast, in patients with wild-type BRAF, the HR was marginally significant only at age 50 years and was insignificant at all other age points (Fig 4D). Similar results were observed when only patients with CPTC were analyzed using RCS (Appendix Fig A1, online only).

We also used adaptive smoother spline (Fig 5), used previously by Adam et al., to analyze the relationship between patient age and PTC-specific mortality and obtained similar results. Specifically, in analyses of all patients, a near-linear association between patient age and mortality risk was seen (Fig 5A). An even steeper linear association between patient age and mortality risk was seen in patients with BRAF V600E (Fig 5B). In contrast, no significant association between patient age and mortality risk was seen in patients with wild-type BRAF (Fig 5C). Similar results were obtained when only patients with CPTC were analyzed using the adaptive smoother spline (Appendix Fig A2, online only).

To further support the prognostic importance of patient age, a linear relationship between patient age and PTC-specific mortality was recently demonstrated, suggesting a continuous adverse impact on PTC prognosis as patient age increases. For thyroid cancer, the previous and recent editions of the AJCC staging system heavily emphasize the general risk of patient age. Thus, patient age has profoundly influenced the risk stratification and management of PTC. However, it remains to be determined whether patient age is a major risk factor for all patients with PTC.

This study explored the effect of BRAF V600E on age-associated mortality risk in patients with PTC. We reproduced the findings of Adam et al., by demonstrating a similar linear association between patient age and PTC-specific mortality in the analysis of all patients combined. However, this linear relationship was even steeper in patients with BRAF V600E, particularly in patients older than age 45 years. In contrast, this association was lost in patients with wild-type BRAF, in whom the PTC-specific mortality risk remained flat with increasing patient age, even after age 45 years. Thus, the long-observed age-associated mortality risk in PTC is BRAF V600E dependent; patient age itself, in the absence of BRAF V600E, is not a significant risk factor. These findings challenge the conventional belief that older patient age is uniformly a mortality risk factor in PTC and question its universal application in risk stratification of PTC. Instead, the utility of patient age as a prognostic risk factor depends on BRAF V600E status. Specifically, in patients with BRAF V600E, age has a strong and continuous adverse effect on the prognosis of patients with PTC throughout the entire age spectrum examined, and in fact, the effect intensifies as patient age increases. Thus, in patients with BRAF V600E mutation, age is an important factor in risk stratification and management of PTC as conventionally applied. In contrast, in patients with wild-type BRAF, age is not a risk factor in the management of thyroid cancer.

**Fig 3.** Kaplan-Meier analysis of disease-specific survival curves of patients with conventional papillary thyroid cancer (CPTC) in various patient age groups: (A) all patients; (B) patients with BRAF V600E; and (C) patients with wild-type BRAF.

**DISCUSSION**

Since Crile and Hazard described the association between advanced patient age and aggressiveness of thyroid cancer almost 65 years ago, numerous studies have confirmed this phenomenon. Today, patient age is a well-established mortality risk factor in the prognostication of thyroid cancer; various clinical guidelines and risk assessment models uniformly incorporate patient age as a major risk factor in the management of thyroid cancer.
factor for poor prognosis; in these patients, both younger and older patients have a similar PTC-specific mortality risk and may be managed similarly. This new concept will likely have a major impact on the clinical management of PTC because the prevalence of BRAF V600E mutation in PTC is, on average, 45%. Thus, the majority of patients with PTC have wild-type BRAF, and in these patients, conventional use of patient age as a major risk factor is not valid. As such, many older patients will be able to avoid more aggressive treatment that would otherwise be administered as a result of the conventional concept of older patient

**Fig 4.** Multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis of papillary thyroid cancer (PTC)-specific mortality risk with restricted cubic splines (RCS). Continuous linear association between patient age and PTC-specific mortality was observed (A) in the analysis of all patients and (B) even more significantly in patients with BRAF V600E mutation, but (C) not in patients with wild-type BRAF. The blue line represents the fitted line of the association between patient age and the estimated hazard ratio (HR) of mortality after adjustment; the shaded region represents the 95% CI. The models were adjusted for the following clinicopathologic characteristics: patient sex, tumor size, extrathyroidal extension, lymph node metastasis, distant metastases, administered activities of radioactive iodine, and study center. The RCS plots were performed with the age of 45 years as the reference for HR calculation. (D) Specific HRs and 95% CIs are presented for the indicated patient age points. (*) Significantly different HRs in reference to patient age of 45 years.

**Fig 5.** Multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis of papillary thyroid cancer (PTC)-specific mortality risk with adaptive smoother splines in (A) all patients with PTC, (B) patients with BRAF V600E mutation, and (C) patients with wild-type BRAF. The blue line represents the fitted line of the association between patient age and the estimated hazard ratio of mortality after adjustment; the shaded region represents the 95% CI. The models were adjusted for the following clinicopathologic characteristics: patient sex, tumor size, extrathyroidal extension, lymph node metastasis, distant metastases, administered activities of radioactive iodine, and study center.
age being a general high-risk factor. Our study calls for a BRAF genotype–based modification of the conventionally used risk assessment systems, as well as the recently developed quantitative risk assessment nomogram, which all incorporate patient age as a general risk factor for thyroid cancer. In addition, this differentiating role of BRAF V600E status in patient age-related mortality risk of PTC, use of the conventional cutoff age of 45 years or the new cutoff age of 55 years in the risk stratification of PTC is inaccurate. Our study addressed the role of BRAF V600E mutation in PTC-specific mortality risk related to patient age at diagnosis. It would be interesting for future studies to investigate the role of the mutation in the dynamic effect, if any, of patient age on the prognosis of PTC as the age of the same patient increases after the diagnosis.

The large multicenter cohort of patients is a major strength of this study and is one of the largest cohorts of patients in BRAF mutation–related studies in thyroid cancer. The multicenter nature, however, is inherently associated with the potential limitation of data heterogeneity, as seen in population data such as the SEER data. Nevertheless, our study only looked at the single outcome parameter of PTC-specific patient death, which has a universally straightforward definition, and the binary data of BRAF mutation–positive and –negative status from each participating center were similarly included in the analysis. The participating centers are well-known thyroid cancer centers that actively follow contemporary standard practice guidelines in the management of thyroid cancer, minimizing the heterogeneity in the management of thyroid cancer. The fact that the overall analysis of all patients in the current study fully reproduced the findings of the linear effect of patient age on PTC-specific mortality in the study by Adam et al is consistent with the good generalizability of the current study. Another limitation is that TERT promoter mutation, which is also a prognostic genetic event in PTC, was not included in this study. However, TERT promoter mutations are relatively uncommon and mostly coexist with BRAF mutation in PTC. Moreover, TERT promoter mutation alone has limited or virtually no effect on PTC-specific mortality. Therefore, lack of information on TERT promoter mutation should not affect the clinical implications of this study on the use of BRAF V600E status in differentiating patient age–related mortality risk in PTC.

The molecular mechanism for the BRAF mutation–dependent effect of patient age on the prognosis of PTC remains to be defined. It is possible that certain age-associated genes, such as immune response–related genes, may cooperate with mutant BRAF in conferring poor prognosis because BRAF V600E was shown to be linked to abnormal immune responses in human cancers, including PTC. Another potential and more likely mechanism is the coexistence of BRAF V600E and TERT promoter mutations, which are synergistically associated with poor clinical outcomes in PTC, including disease recurrence and patient mortality. Both BRAF V600E and TERT promoter mutations occur in PTC more commonly in older patients. The present results are also consistent with a previous finding that BRAF V600E and older patient age had a synergistic effect on PTC-related mortality.

In summary, in contrast to the long-held practice of treating patient age as a general risk factor for PTC, this large multicenter study demonstrates that age is a strong and continuous mortality risk factor only in patients with BRAF V600E mutation, and not in the more commonly seen patients with wild-type BRAF. These results call for differentiation between patients with wild-type BRAF and BRAF V600E when applying age to risk stratification and management of patients with PTC. This study has broad clinical implications.

Disclosures provided by the authors are available with this article at jco.org.

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AUTHORS’ DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Patient Age–Associated Mortality Risk Is Differentiated by BRAF V600E Status in Papillary Thyroid Cancer

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Appendix

Fig A1. Multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis of mortality risk with restricted cubic splines (RCS) in patients with conventional papillary thyroid cancer (CPTC). (A) A continuous and nearly linear association between patient age and CPTC-specific mortality was observed in all patients. (B) The association was linear and even steeper in patients with \textit{BRAF} V600E mutation. (C) A linear association was not seen in patients with wild-type \textit{BRAF}. The blue line represents the fitted line of the association between patient age and the estimated hazard ratio (HR) of mortality risk after adjustment; the shaded region represents the 95% CI. The models were adjusted for the following clinicopathologic characteristics: patient sex, tumor size, extrathyroidal extension, lymph node metastasis, distant metastases, administered activities of radioactive iodine, and study center. The RCS plots were performed with the age of 45 years as the reference for HR calculation. (D) Specific HRs and 95% CIs were calculated for the indicated age points. (*) Significantly different HRs in reference to patient age of 45 years. Because of the small number of deaths in patients younger than age 45 years, there were large variations in log HRs in patients with CPTC harboring only wild-type \textit{BRAF} in the young age ranges. Consequently, different y-axis scales are used for log HR for panels A, B, and C.
Table A1. Demographic Characteristics of Patients by Medical Center and Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center and Country</th>
<th>No. of Patients</th>
<th>Median (IQR) Age at Diagnosis (years)</th>
<th>No. of Male Patients (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By medical center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins Hospital (United States)</td>
<td>1,051</td>
<td>46 (36-57)</td>
<td>287 (27.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pisa (Italy)</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>38 (28-51)</td>
<td>47 (24.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Perugia (Italy)</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>49 (37-59)</td>
<td>32 (27.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Milan (Italy)</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>45 (36-58)</td>
<td>63 (23.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology (Poland)</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>47 (35-59)</td>
<td>30 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>40 (34-56)</td>
<td>20 (26.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Padua (Italy)</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>48 (39-57)</td>
<td>32 (23.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh (United States)</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>52 (38-63)</td>
<td>42 (24.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>66</td>
<td>42 (32-54)</td>
<td>11 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Sydney (Australia)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>44 (34-59)</td>
<td>20 (21.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Endocrinology, Prague (Czech Republic)</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>47 (31-60)</td>
<td>39 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By country</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>47 (37-58)</td>
<td>329 (27.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>45 (34-56)</td>
<td>174 (24.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>47 (35-59)</td>
<td>30 (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>43 (34-57)</td>
<td>40 (23.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>42 (32-54)</td>
<td>11 (16.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>47 (31-60)</td>
<td>39 (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>2,638</td>
<td>46 (35-58)</td>
<td>623 (23.6)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Abbreviation: IQR, interquartile range.