

Lab: The War on Cancer

Read:

- Bailar JC III, Gornik HL. Cancer undefeated. *NEJM* 1997 (May 29); 336:1569-1574; correspondence *NEJM* 1997 (Sept 25); 337:935-938.
- Kramer BS, Klausner RD. Grappling with cancer – defeatism versus the reality of progress. *NEJM* 1997 (Sept 25); 337:931-934.
- Other correspondence *NEJM* 1997 (Sept 25):337:935-938.

Answer these questions:

1. What are the respective advantages and disadvantages of mortality data for comparing the burden of cancer in a population over time? What are the advantages of incidence data?
2. Do you think that the “war” metaphor is appropriate for public health initiatives? What are some of its advantages and disadvantages?
3. Has the War on Cancer been lost? Should resources be shifted from research on treatment to research on prevention? Why?