



Cancer care by the GP

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Cancer care by the GP

Results from the Netherlands

- Primary health care use in cancer survivors
- Primary health care use in partners of cancer survivors
- Workload of GP's due to cancer
- Screening of GP's



Primary health care use in cancer survivors

NIVEL primary care database

- Data collection started in 2001
- Anonymous copy of EMR
- Number of practices increased from 80 to over 400
- Number of patients increased from 300,000 to over 1.5 million
- Data on consultations, morbidity, prescriptions, referrals, lab values (recently)



Primary health care use in cancer survivors

- Adult patients with breast-, prostate-, or colon cancer (2001-2006)
- Follow-up period 2-5 years after the diagnosis
- Matching 2 control patients; based on age, sex, GP practice

Breast cancer survivors

Breast cancer	Patients (n=1256)	Controls (n=2512)
Age (yrs)	58.5	58.3
Male (%)	-	-
Heart disease (%)	26	24
CVA/TIA (%)	1	1
COPD/Asthma (%)	6	7
DM (%)	10*	8
Depression (%)	6*	5

* $p < 0.05$ cancer patients vs control patients

Prostate cancer survivors

Prostate cancer	Patients (n=503)	Controls (n=1006)
Age (yrs)	70.6	70.4
Male (%)	100	100
Heart disease (%)	38	34
CVA/TIA (%)	4	3
COPD/Asthma (%)	12	9
DM (%)	14	13
Depression (%)	4	3

Colon cancer survivors

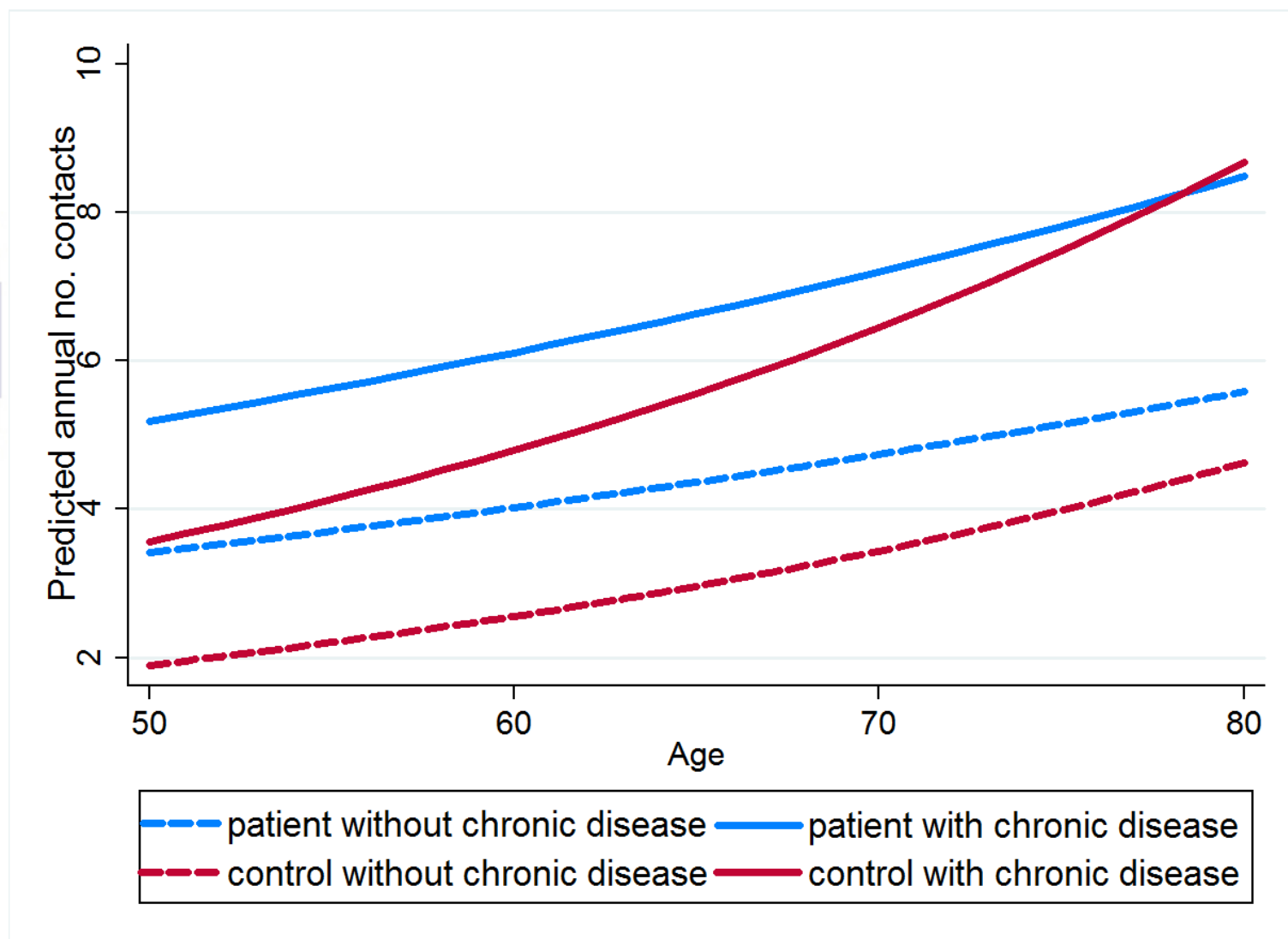
Colon cancer	Patients (n=487)	Controls (n=973)
Age (yrs)	67	67
Male (%)	47	47
Heart disease (%)	35	34
CVA/TIA (%)	2	2
COPD/Asthma (%)	8	7
DM (%)	13	11
Depression (%)	4	3

Primary health care use 2 – 5 yrs after diagnosis

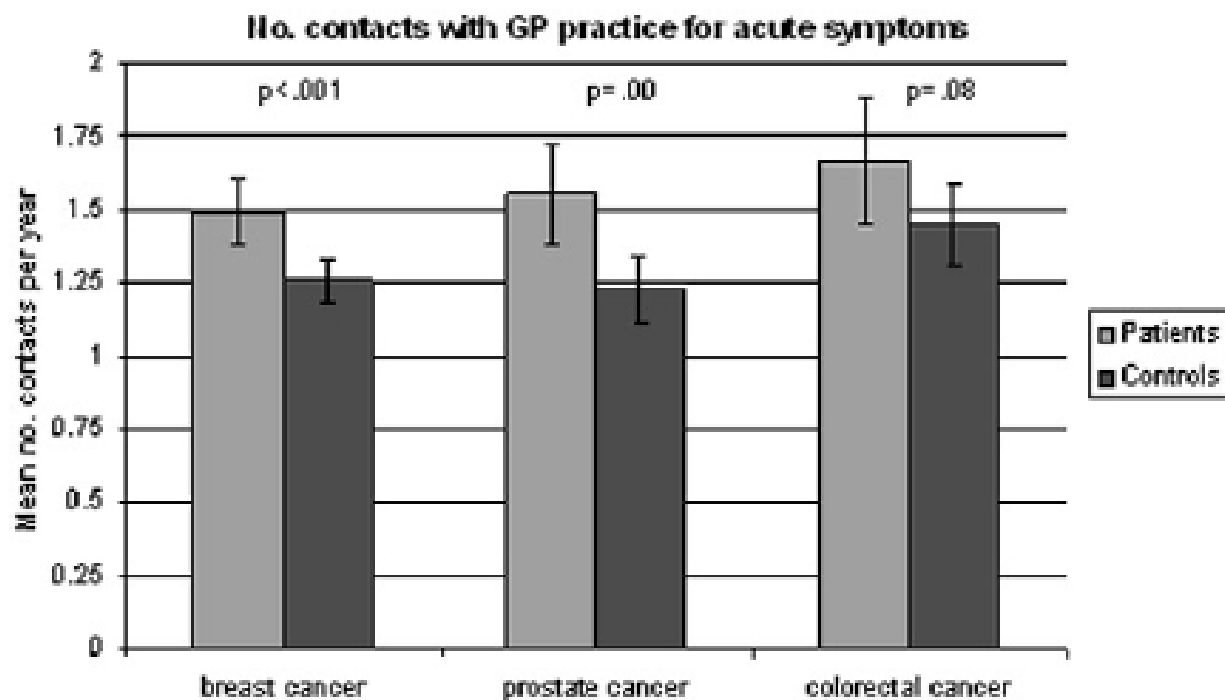
	% pt ≥ 1 contact/yr	Mean number contacts/yr
Breast cancer pt	87*	6.1 (5.5)*
controls	84	5.0 (4.8)
Prostate cancer pt	85	7.0 (6.2)*
controls	81	5.3 (4.8)
Colon cancer pt	88*	6.7 (7.4)*
controls	83	5.8 (5.8)

* p<0.05 cancer patients vs control patients

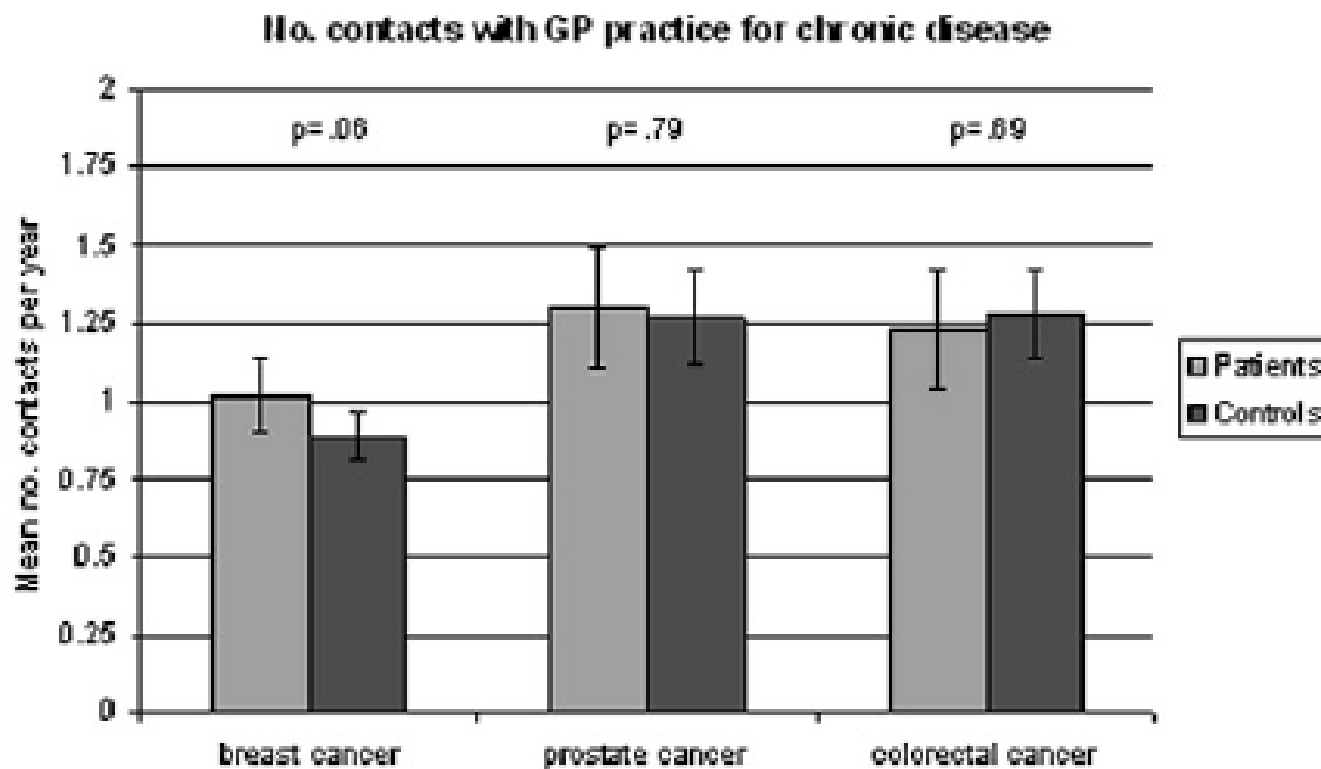
Primary health care use 2 – 5 yrs after diagnosis – colon cancer patients



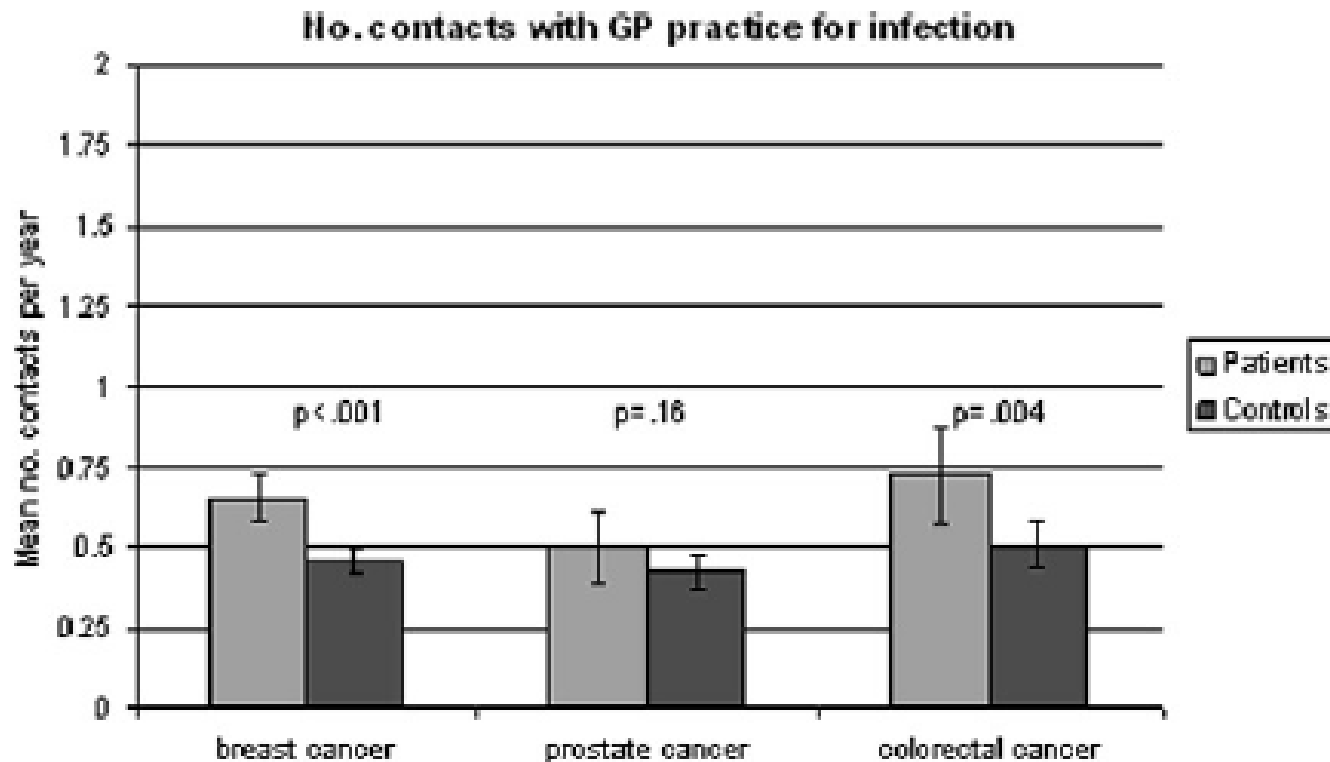
GP contacts - acute symptoms



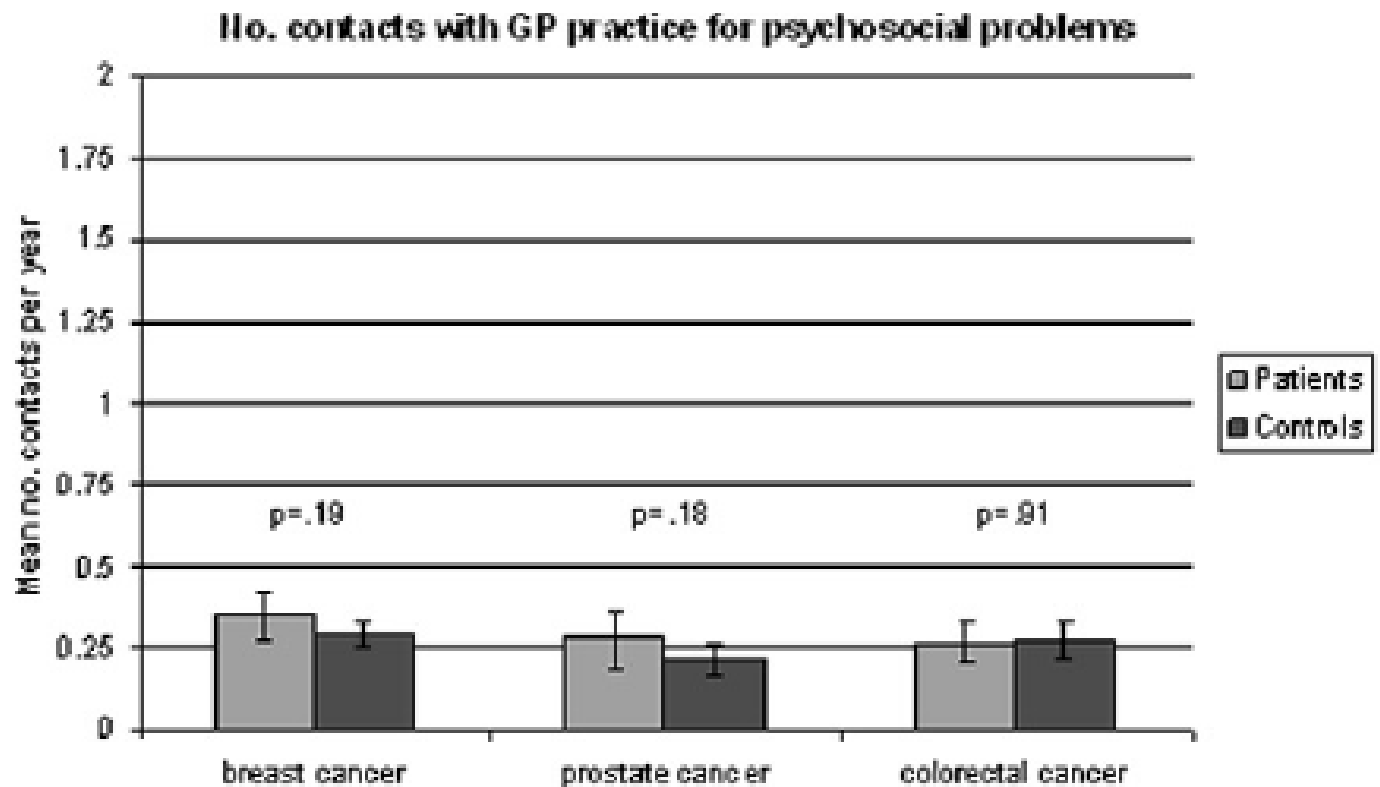
GP contacts – chronic diseases



GP contacts – infections



GP contacts – psychosocial problems



Partners' GP use

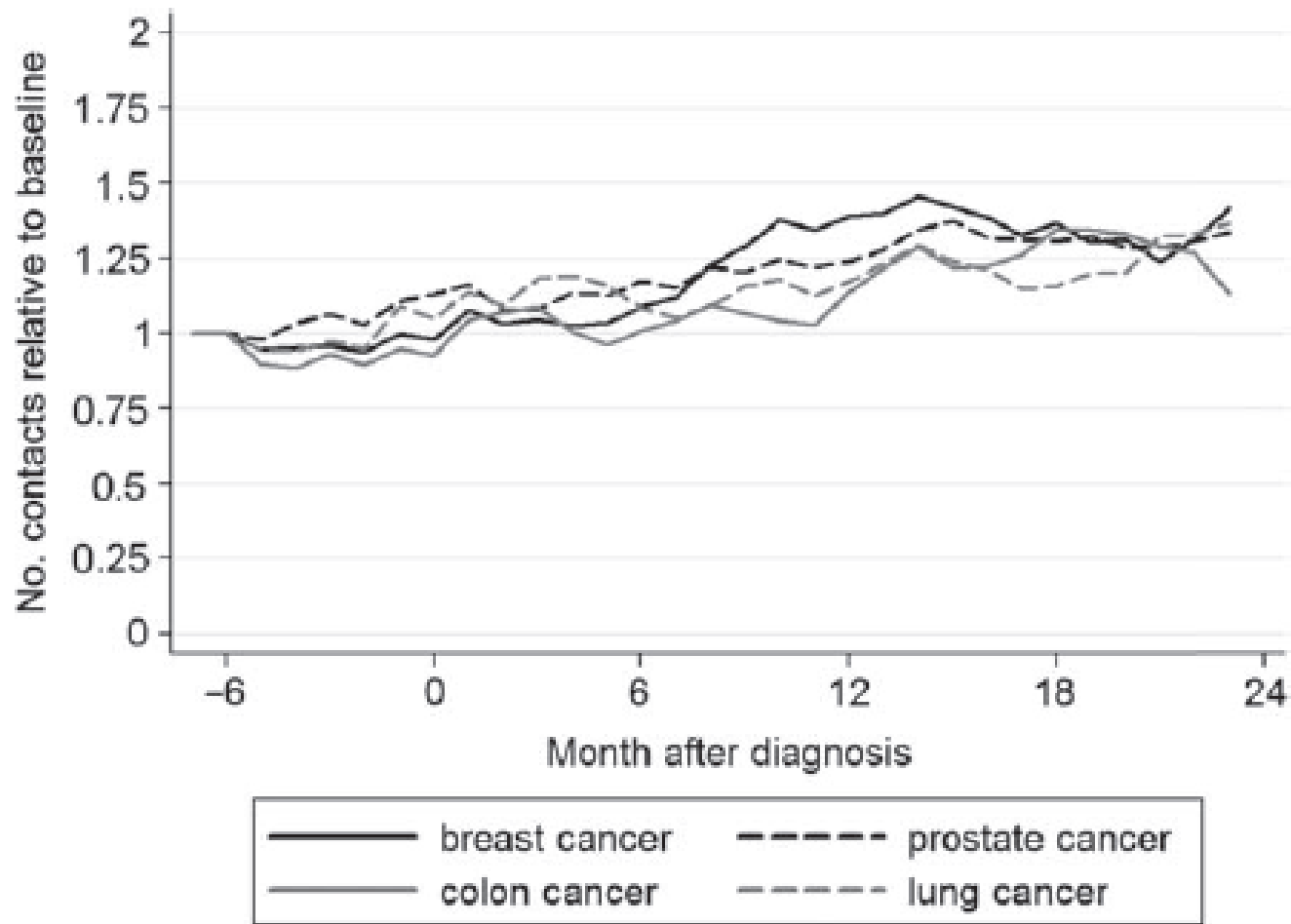
Partners experience psychological distress and impaired health around and after diagnoses of cancer

Study about partners' GP use: 3071 partners of patients with breast, prostate, colorectal, or lung cancer

- 0 - 6 months after diagnosis, GP use was similar to baseline (18 to 6 months before diagnosis)
- 6 - 24 months after diagnosis, GP use was increased

Heins, M., Schellevis, F., Rijken, M., Donker, G., & Korevaar, J. (2013). Partners of cancer patients consult their GPs significantly more often with both somatic and psychosocial problems. *Scandinavian journal of primary health care*, 31(4), 203-208.

Partners' GP use

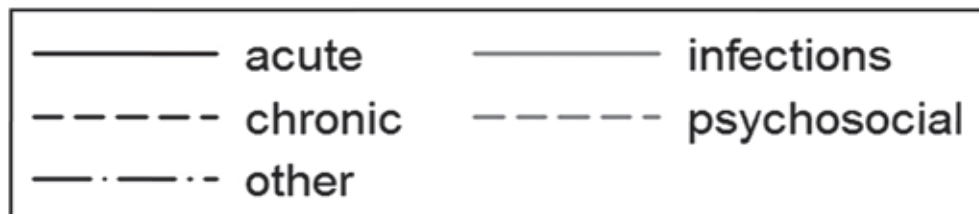
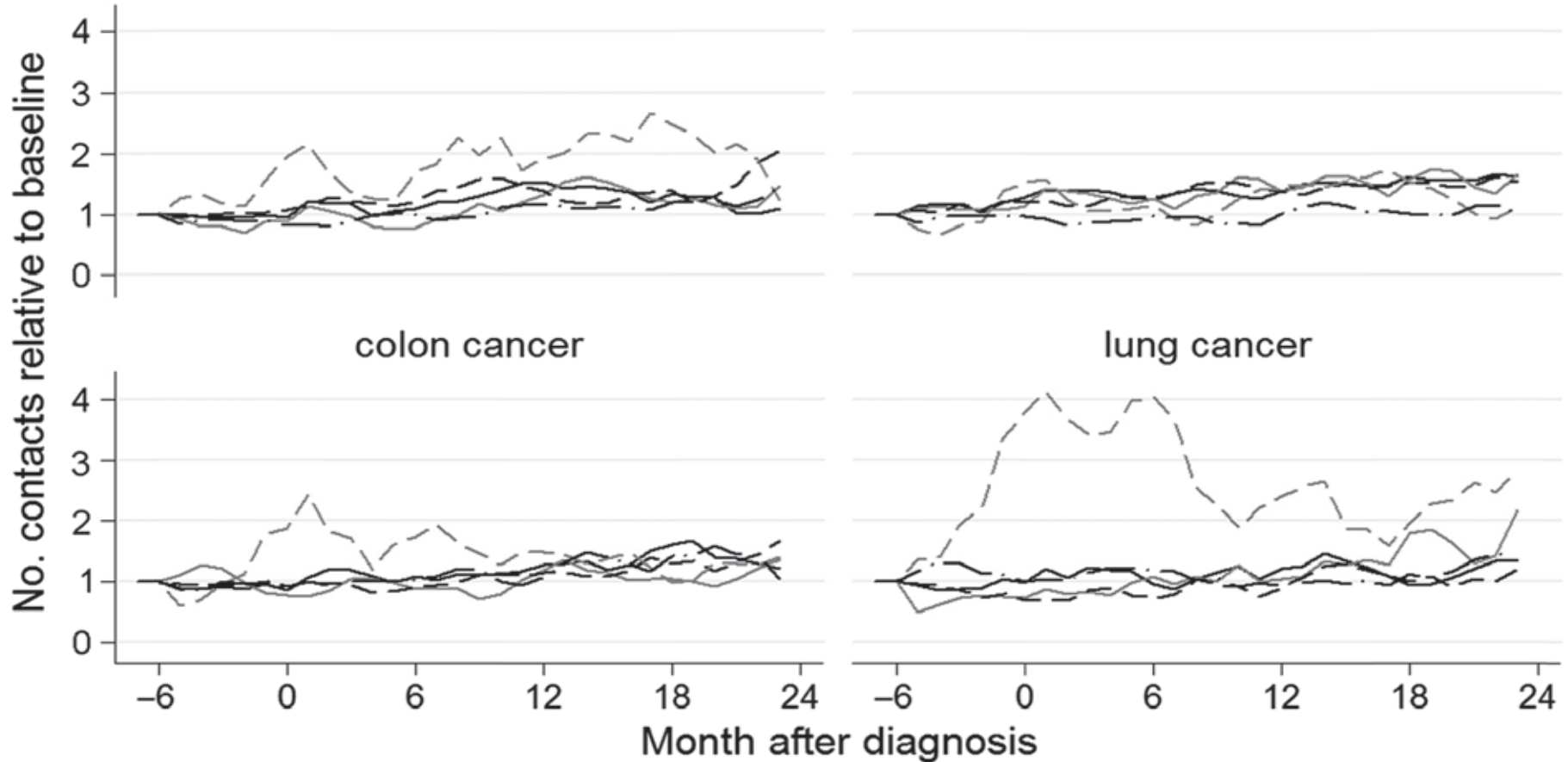


Relative number of GP contacts in cancer patients' partners from 6 months before to 24 months after diagnosis by cancer type compared with baseline (18 to 6 months before diagnosis – set at 1.0).

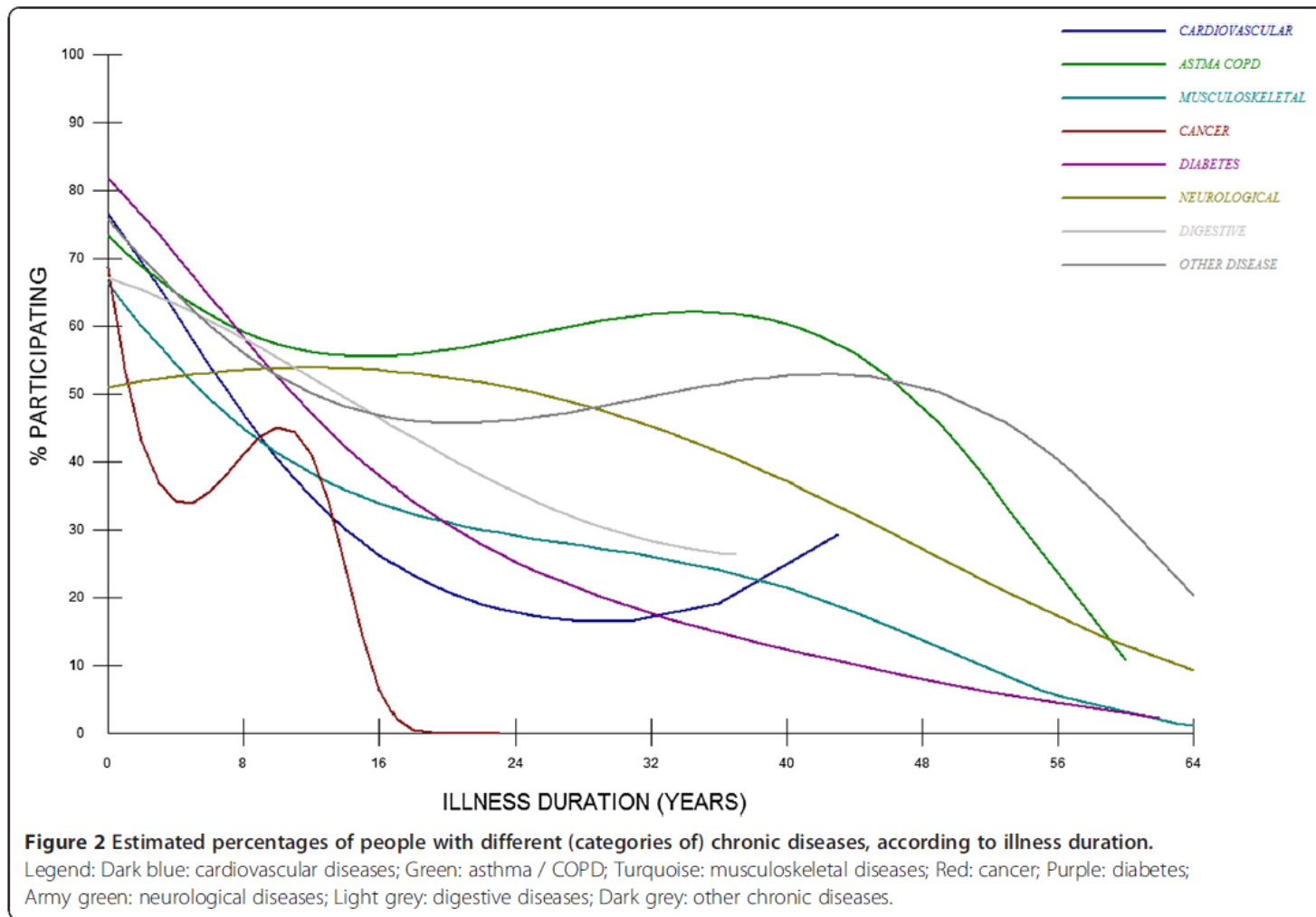
Partners' GP use

breast cancer

prostate cancer



Labour participation (n=4634)



Rijken M et al, The importance of illness duration, age at diagnosis and the year of diagnosis for labour participation chances of people with chronic illness. *BMC Public Health* 2013; 13: 803

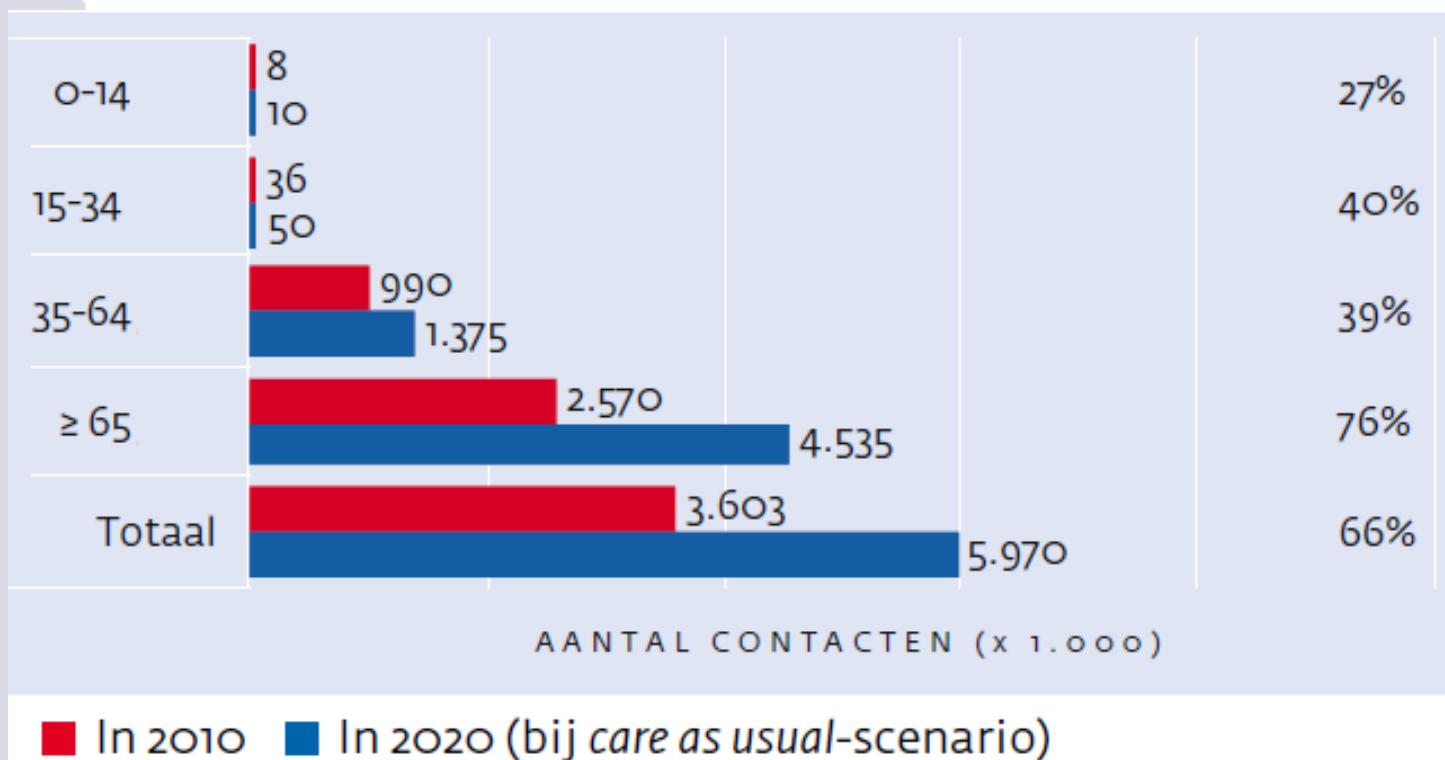
Workload GP 2010-2020

Future care of cancer patients, two scenarios:

- **Care as usual – scenario**
Based on demographic and epidemiological developments
- **Substitution – scenario**
Substitution of cancer care by the GP,
assumption: two extra consultations with the GP
per cancer patient each year

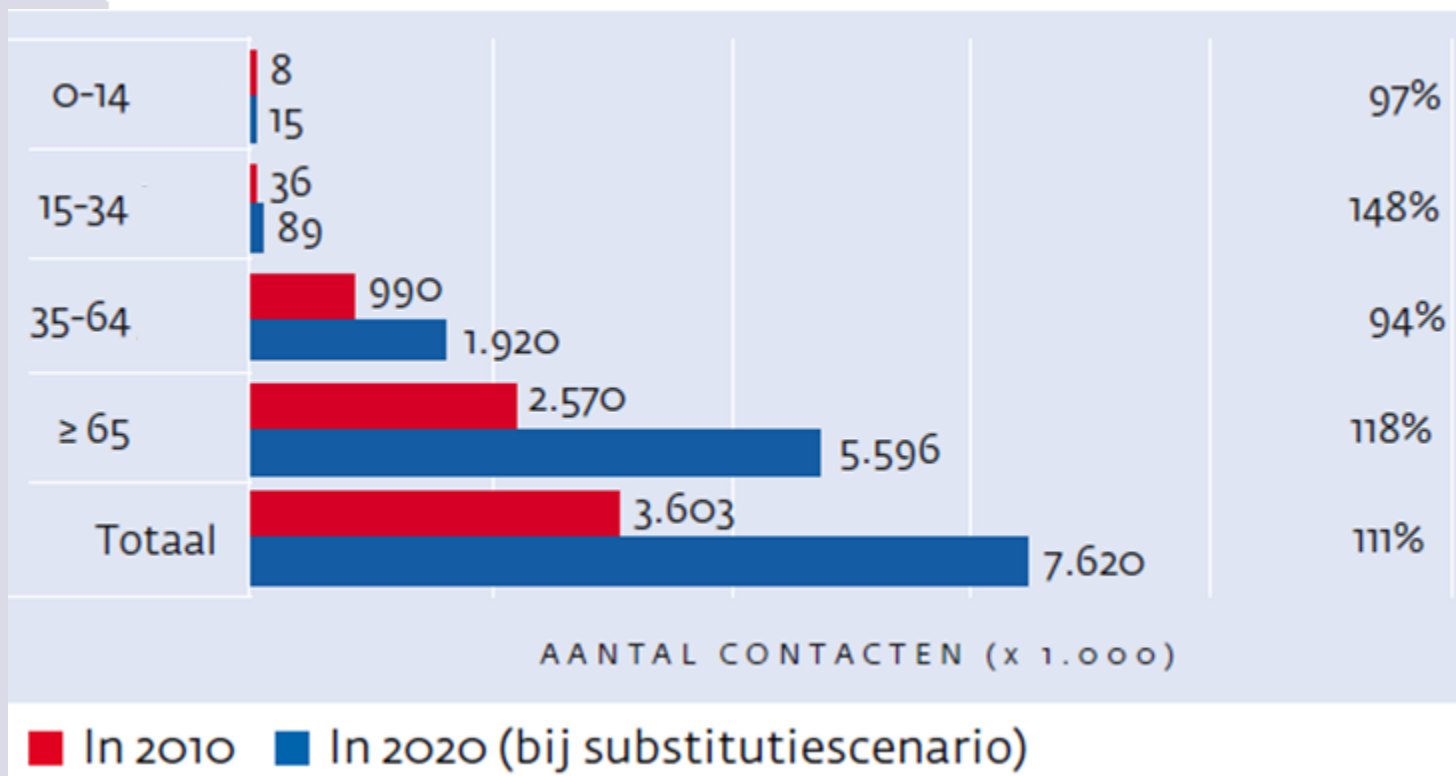
Workload GP 2010-2020

Care as usual - scenario



Workload GP 2010-2020

Substitution - scenario



Information can be found

1. Heins MJ, Korevaar JC, Rijken PM, Schellevis FG. For which health problems do cancer survivors visit their General Practitioner? *Eur J Cancer*. 2013;49:211-8
2. Heins M, Schellevis F, Rijken M, van der Hoek L, Korevaar J. Determinants of Increased Primary Health Care Use in Cancer Survivors. *J Clin Oncol*. 2012;30(33):4155-60
3. Heins M, Schellevis F, Rijken M, Donker G, & Korevaar J. (2013). Partners of cancer patients consult their GPs significantly more often with both somatic and psychosocial problems. *Scandinavian journal of primary health care*, 31(4), 203-208.
4. Rijken M et al, The importance of illness duration, age at diagnosis and the year of diagnosis for labour participation chances of people with chronic illness. *BMC Public Health* 2013; 13: 803
5. Report in Dutch: Nazorg bij kanker: de rol van de eerste lijn. Signaleringscommissie Kanker van KWF Kankerbestrijding. 2011. (summary in English)



Cancer screening

National programs

- **Cervical cancer**
Screening all females 30-60 year every 5 year
- **Breast cancer**
Screening all females 50-75 year every 2 year
- **Colorectal cancer**
All males and females 55-75 year every 2 year