

Pancreatic Cancer: the patient's perspective & why early diagnosis is so important

Ali Stunt

17-year survivor of pancreatic cancer

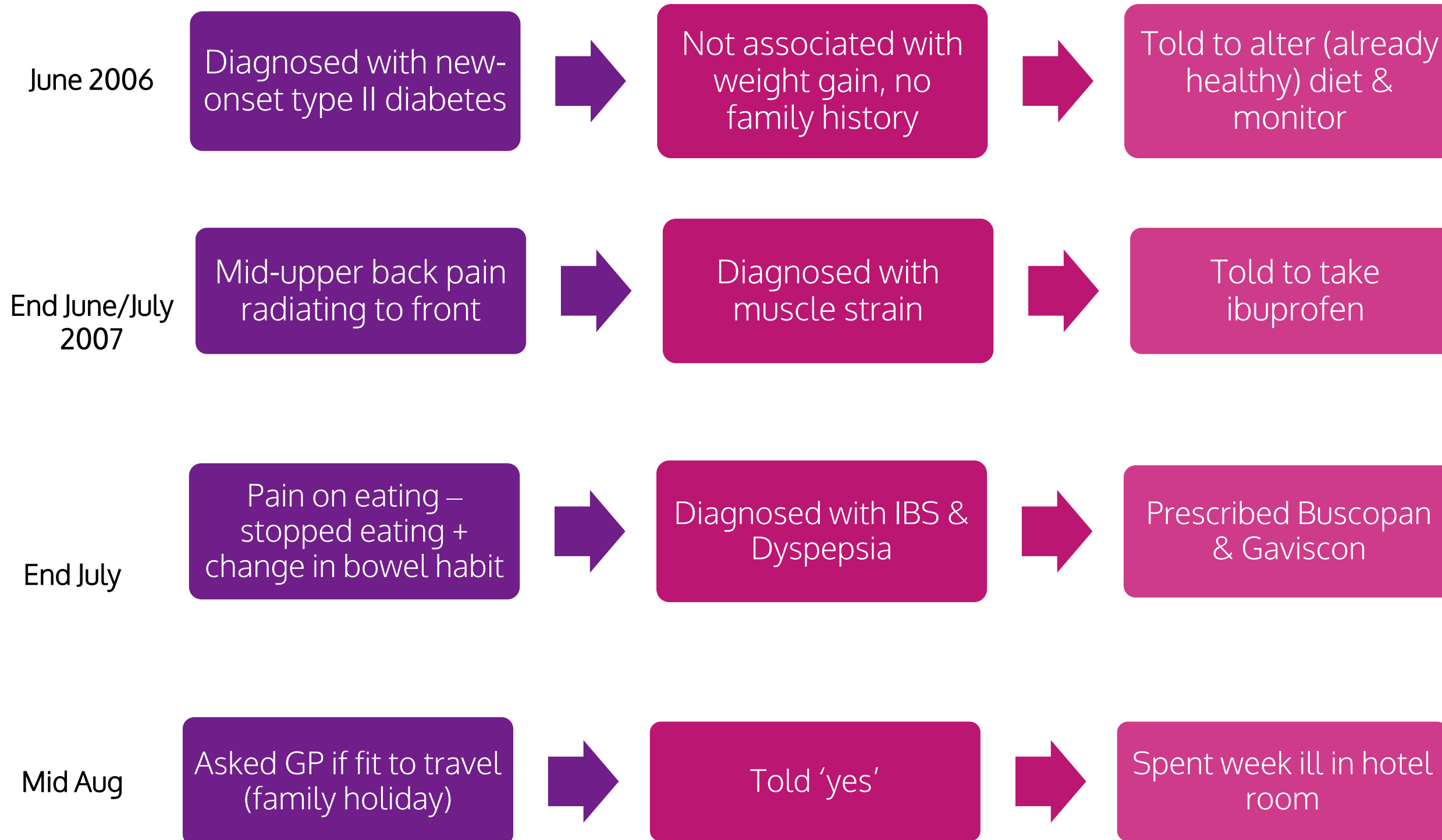
Pancreatic Cancer Europe Board Member

Founder, Pancreatic Cancer Action. UK

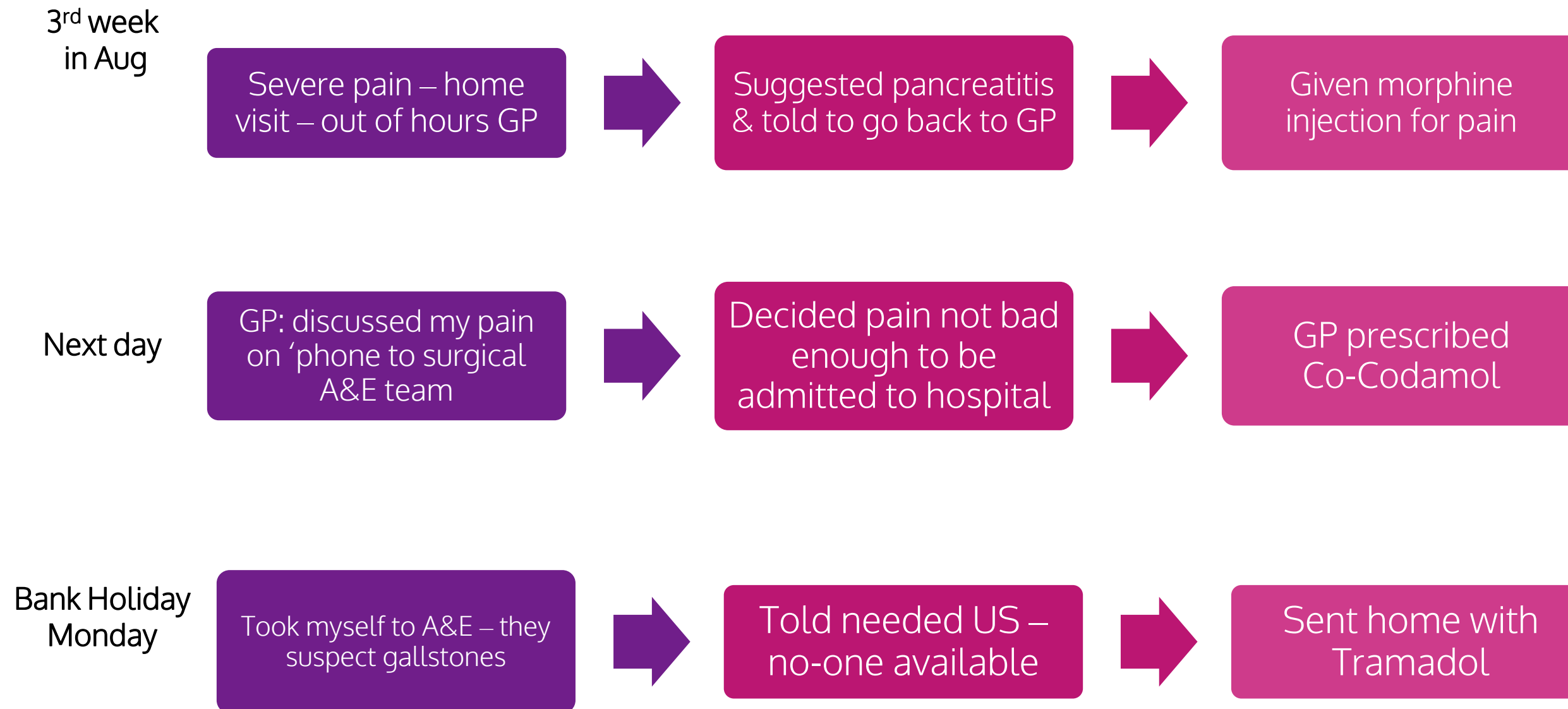
PANCAID Stakeholder event Jan 15th 2025



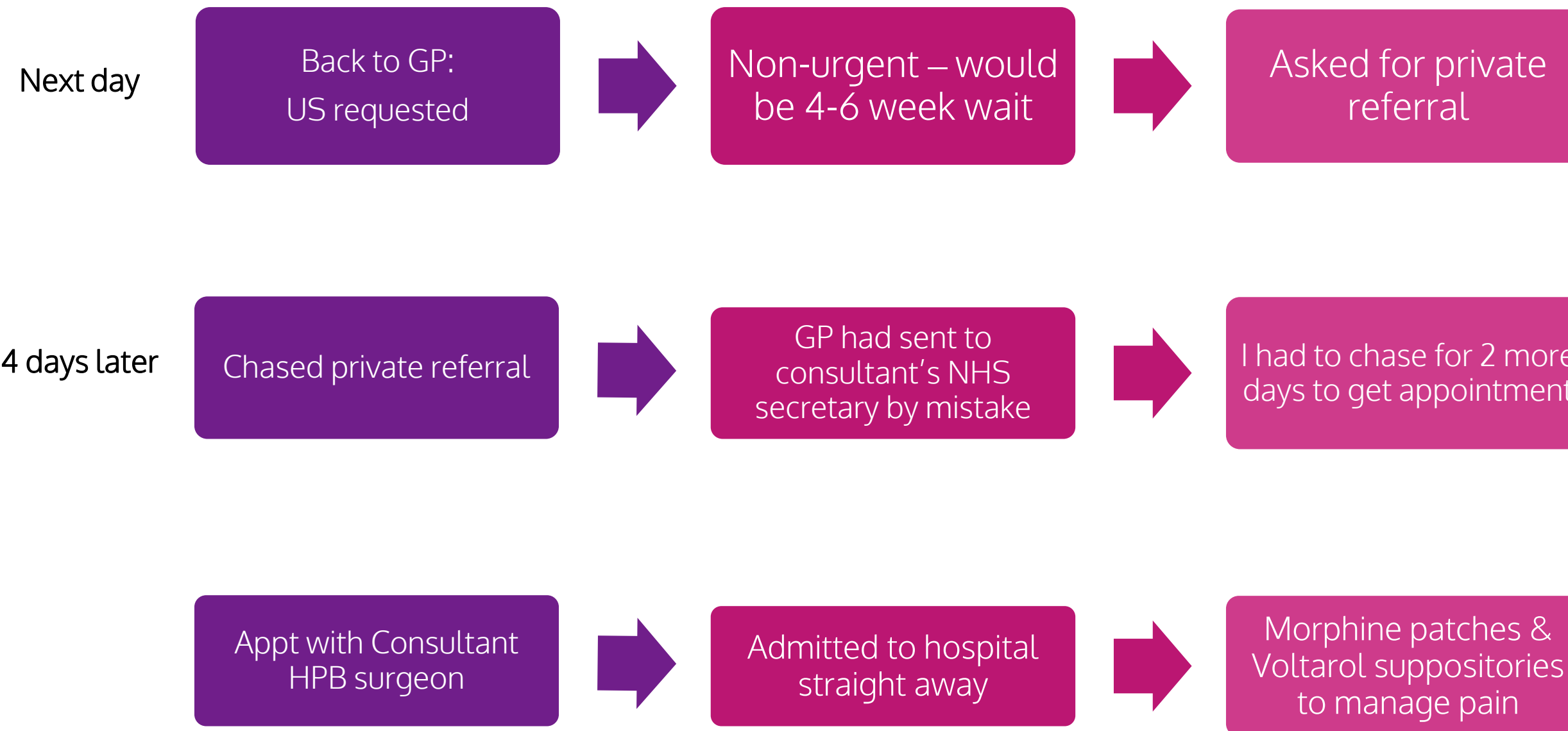
My route to diagnosis



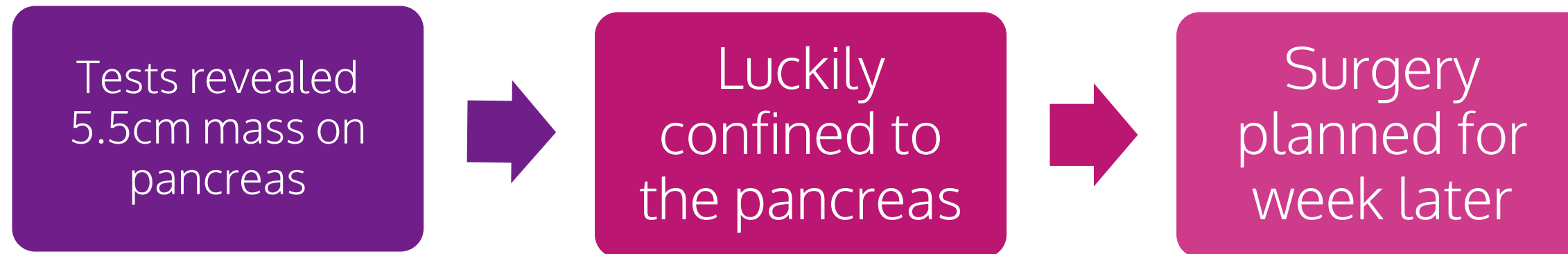
My route to diagnosis cont...



My route to diagnosis cont...



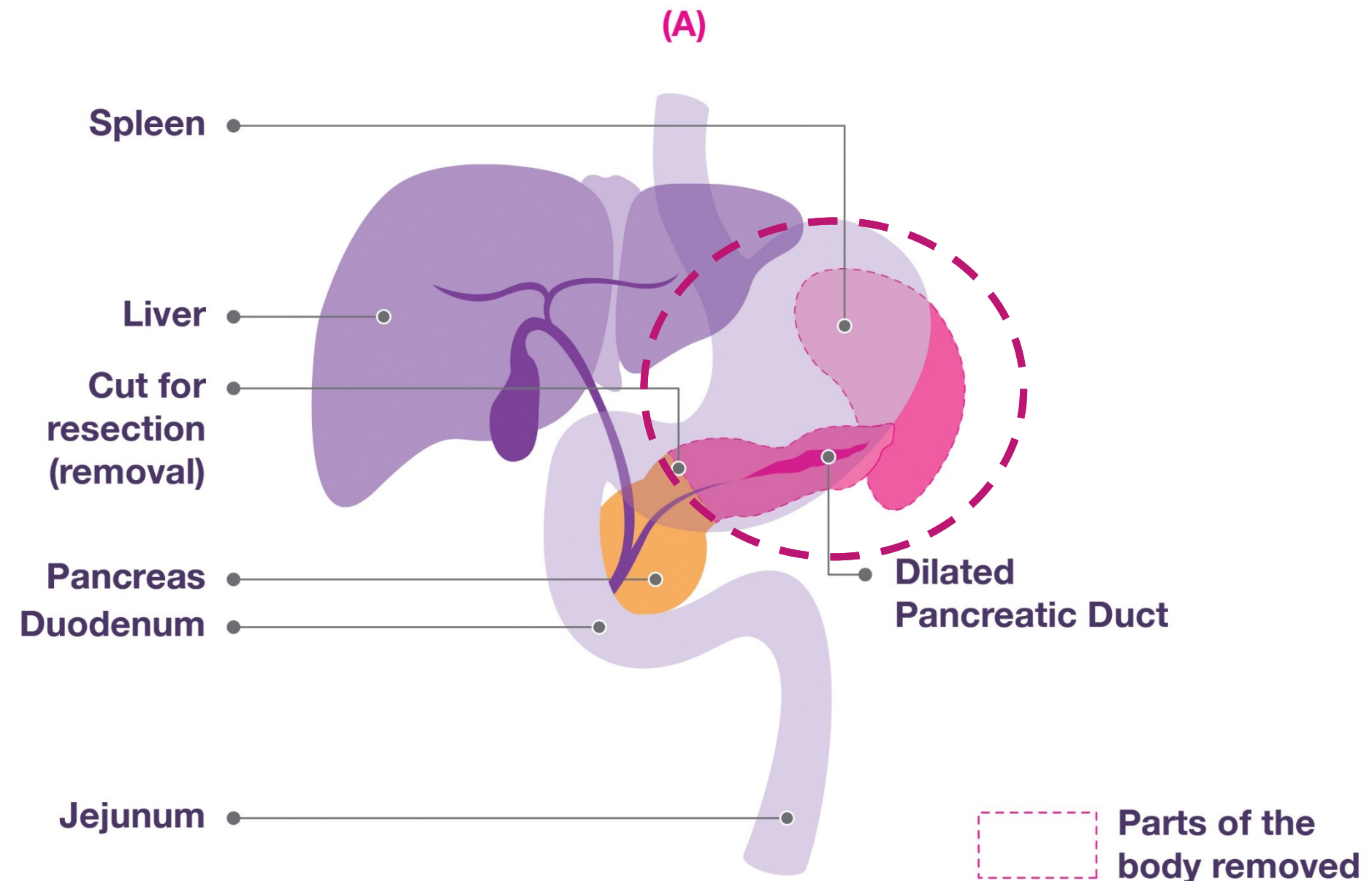
Diagnosed with PDAC 30th August 2007



Before diagnosis: fit & 'healthy' non-smoker, not overweight, no family history and rare attendee of the GP practice

My personal situation unusual

- ❑ Distal pancreatectomy & splenectomy performed on 8th September 2007.
- ❑ Successful but 'close to margins'
- ❑ Histology revealed Stage 2b adenocarcinoma (1 lymph node affected)
- ❑ Followed with 6 cycles Gemcitabine + Cisplatin
-
- ❑ Then 5.5 weeks of chemoradiotherapy (sensitiser: 5FU)



After effects of cancer and treatment

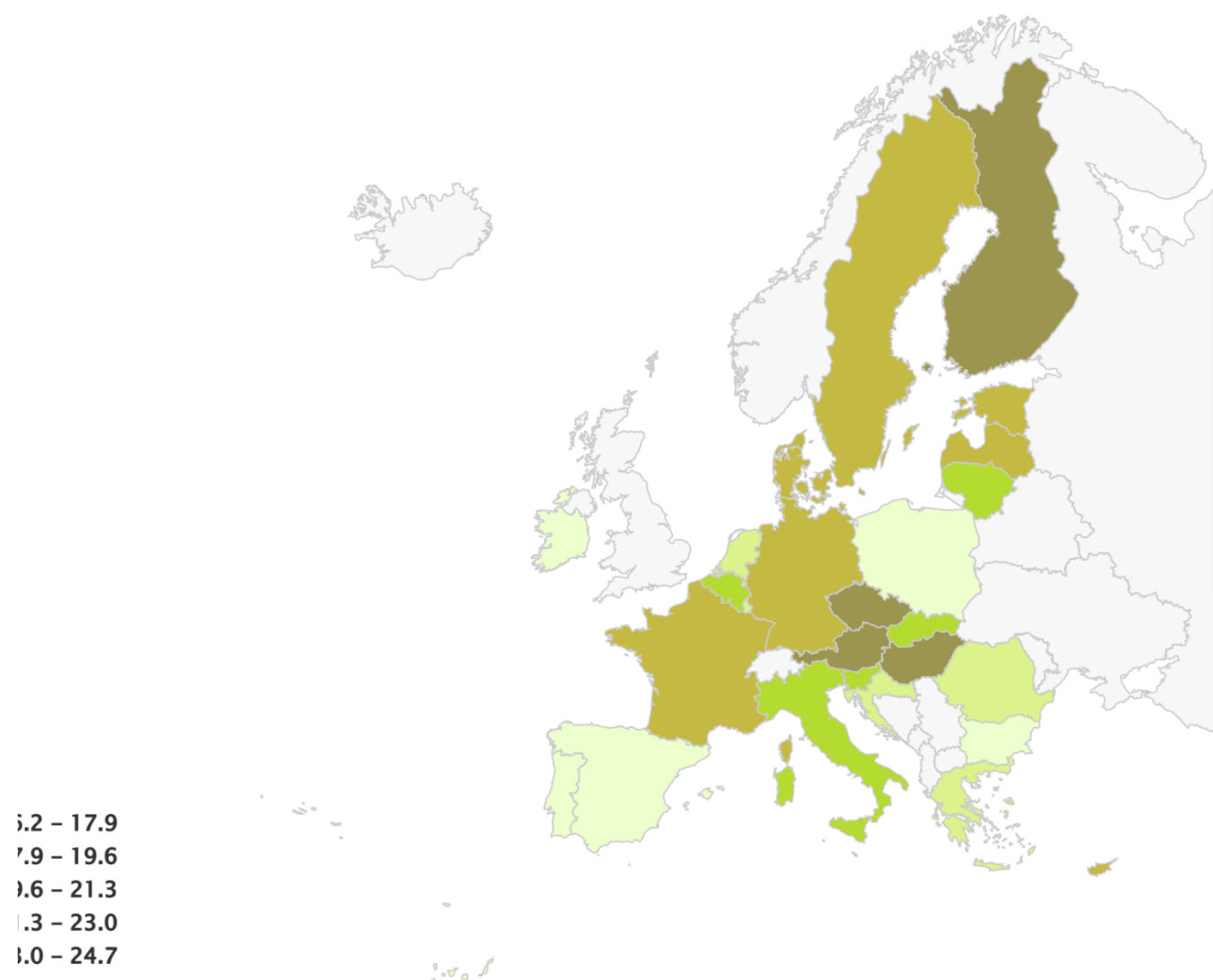
- Type 3c Diabetes
 - Insulin dependent, difficult to control
- Bile malabsorption
 - Cholestagel required with meals
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Early-onset menopause



Pancreatic Cancer in the EU

Age standardised incidence by country

Age standardised rate (European 2013) per 100,000

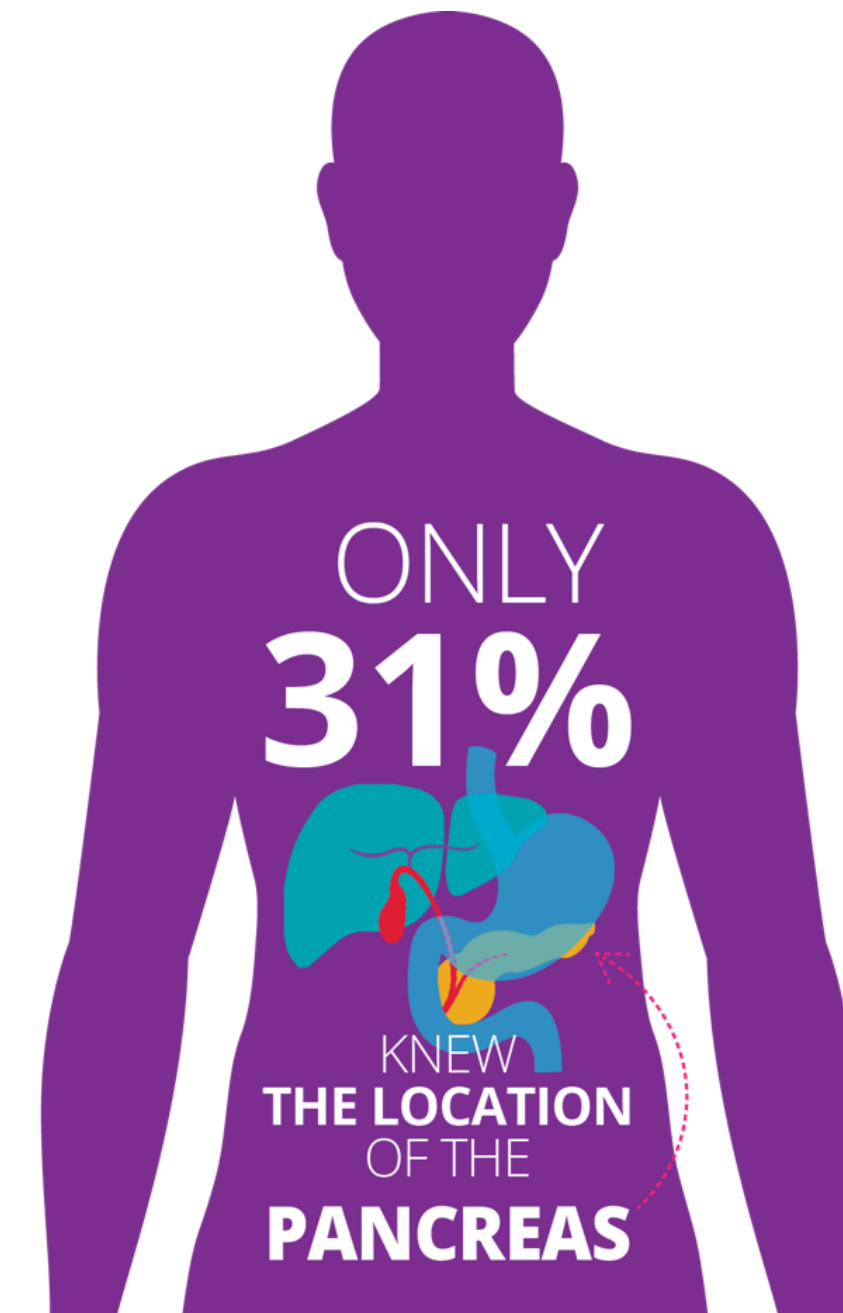


ECIS - European Cancer Information System

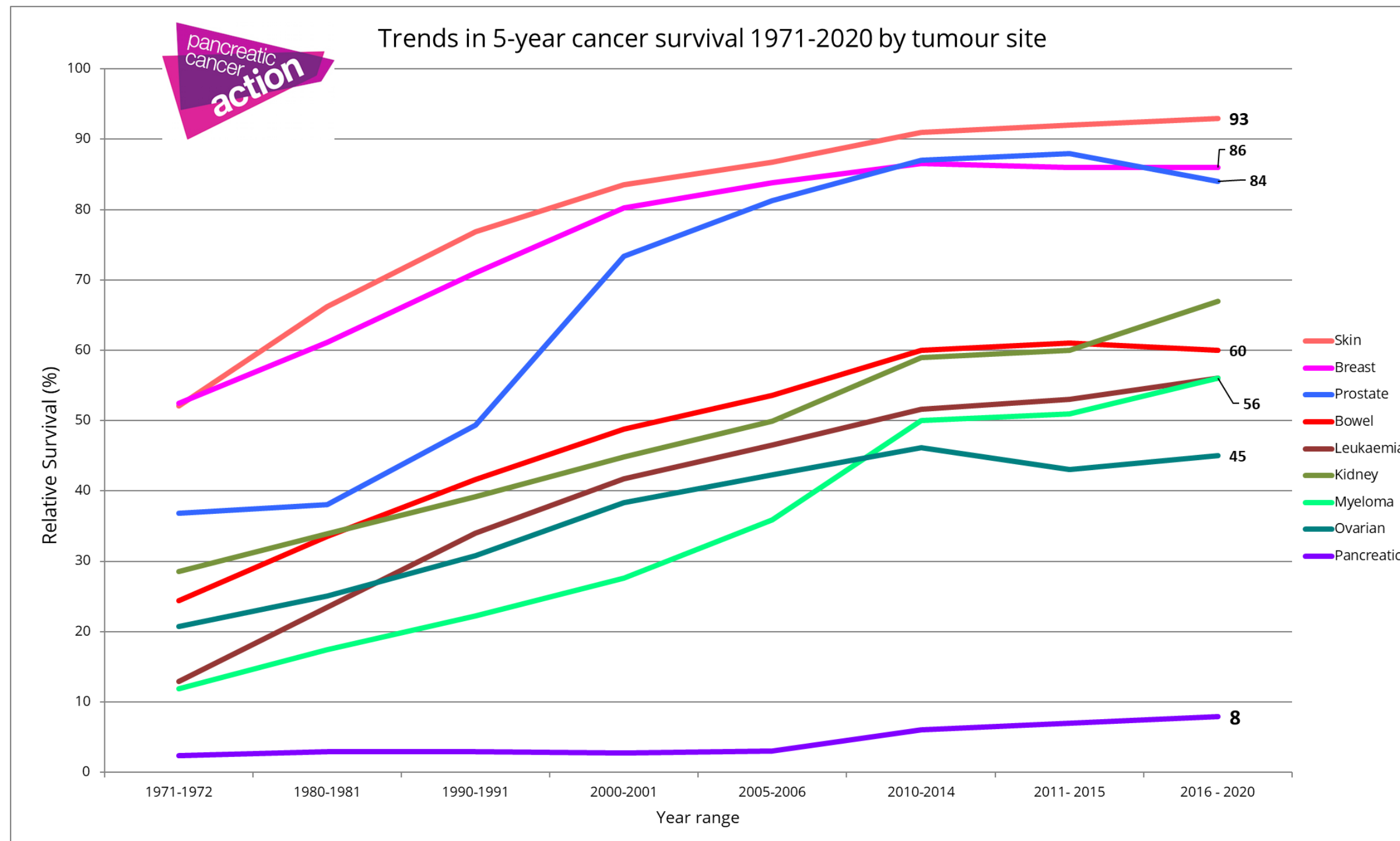
- Across Europe in 2022, pancreatic cancer was responsible for 94,952 deaths, and the annual number of new cases was 100,152.
- As a result, in Europe, almost 29% of all deaths are due to this cancer.
- Incidence and mortality are not equally distributed across member states.

Pancreatic Cancer in the UK

- 10,500 newly diagnosed every year in the UK
- 9,500 patients die each year
- The 5-year survival rate is 8%
- PC is the 5th leading cause of cancer death.
- Only 10% are diagnosed in time for potentially curative surgery
- If patients diagnosed in time for surgery + adjuvant chemotherapy, the 5-year survival rate is >30%
- Only 1% will survive beyond 10 years
- Nearly half are diagnosed as an emergency presentation



There have been huge improvements in survival for most cancers...

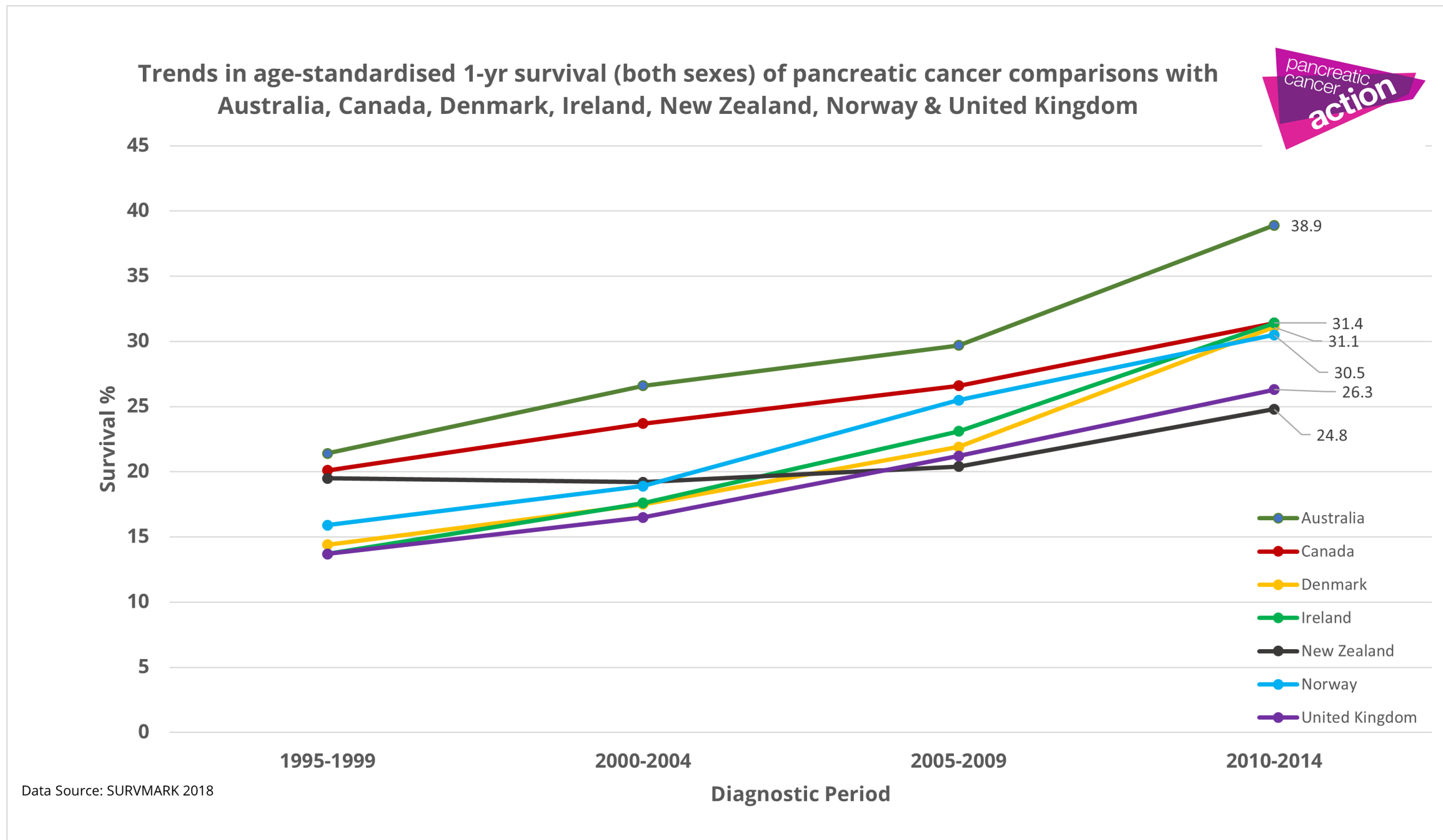


Sadly, the same isn't true for pancreatic cancer

Source: Cancer Research UK/ONS



Some countries do better than others...



How can we better achieve early diagnosis and therefore survival for pancreatic cancer?

- More investment in research at EU level
- Funded awareness programmes for the public in every member state
- Primary care educational programmes
- End nihilism amongst clinicians and the public that 'nothing can be done' for pancreatic cancer patients
- Don't take away HOPE



Thank you for your attention!

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