Belgian Cancer Registry (breast and lung cancer)

First published: 07/07/2026

Last updated: 07/07/2026

Data source | Human | Cancer registry

Administrative details

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Data source ID

1000001039

Data holder

Belgian Cancer Registry (BCR)

Data source type

Cancer registry

Care setting

Other

Data source qualification

If the data source has successfully undergone a formal qualification process (e.g., from the EMA, ISO or other certifications), this should be described.

No

Data source website

Cancer in Belgium - metadata

Contact details

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Data source regions and languages

Data source countries

Belgium

Data source languages

Dutch

Data source establishment

Data source time span

First collection: 01/01/2013

The date when data started to be collected or extracted.

Publications

Data source publications

https://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-024-01296-3

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejso.2024.107978

Data elements collected

The data source contains the following information

Disease information

Does the data source collect information with a focus on a specific disease? This might be a patient registry or other similar initiatives.

Yes

Disease details

Oncological evaluation

Rare diseases

Are rare diseases captured? In the European Union a rare disease is one that affects no more than 5 people in 10,000.

No

Pregnancy and/or neonates

Does the data source collect information on pregnant women and/or neonatal subpopulation (under 28 days of age)?

No

Hospital admission and/or discharge

No

ICU admission

Is information on intensive care unit admission available?

No

Cause of death

Not Captured

Prescriptions of medicines

Not Captured

Dispensing of medicines

Captured

Dispensing vocabulary

ATC

other

Dispensing vocabulary, other

CNK codes, which are unique identifiers for each packaging form of pharmaceutical and para-pharmaceutical product in Belgium.

Advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMP)

Is information on advanced therapy medicinal products included? A medicinal product for human use that is either a gene therapy medicinal product, a somatic cell therapy product or a tissue engineered products as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1394/2007 [Reg (EC) No 1394/2007 Art 1(1)].

No

Contraception

Is information on the use of any type of contraception (oral, injectable, devices etc.) available?

Yes

Indication for use

Does the data source capture information on the therapeutic indication for the use of medicinal products?

Not Captured

Medical devices

Is information on medicinal devices (e.g., pens, syringes, inhalers) available?

No

Administration of vaccines

No

Procedures

Does the data source capture information on procedures (e.g., diagnostic tests, therapeutic, surgical interventions)?

Captured

Procedures vocabulary

Other

Procedures vocabulary, other

RIZIV nomenclatuurcodes - reimbursement data

Healthcare provider

Is information on the person providing healthcare (e.g., physician, pharmacist, specialist) available? The healthcare provider refers to individual health professionals or a health facility organisation licensed to provide health care diagnosis and treatment services including medication, surgery and medical devices.

No

Clinical measurements

Is information on clinical measurements (e.g., BMI, blood pressure, height) available?

No

Genetic data

Are data related to genotyping, genome sequencing available?

Not Captured

Biomarker data

Does the data source capture biomarker information? The term “biomarker” refers to a broad subcategory of medical signs (objective indications of medical state observed from outside the patient), which can be measured accurately and reproducibly. For example, haematological assays, infectious disease markers or metabolomic biomarkers.

Not Captured

Patient-reported outcomes

Is information on patient-reported outcomes (e.g., quality of life) available?

No

Patient-generated data

Is patient-generated information (e.g., from wearable devices) available?

No

Units of healthcare utilisation

Are units of healthcare utilisation (e.g., number of visits to GP per year, number of hospital days) available or can they be derived? Units of healthcare utilisation refer to the quantification of the use of services for the purpose of preventing or curing health problems.

No

Unique identifier for persons

Are patients uniquely identified in the data source?

No

Diagnostic codes

Not Captured

Medicinal product information

Not Captured

Quality of life measurements

Not Captured

Lifestyle factors

Not Captured

Sociodemographic information

Not Captured

Quantitative descriptors

Population Qualitative Data

Population age groups

Paediatric Population (< 18 years)

Neonate

Preterm newborn infants (0 – 27 days)

Term newborn infants (0 – 27 days)

Infants and toddlers (28 days – 23 months)

Children (2 to < 12 years)

Adolescents (12 to < 18 years)

Adult and elderly population (≥18 years)

Adults (18 to < 65 years)

Adults (18 to < 46 years)

Adults (46 to < 65 years)

Elderly (≥ 65 years)

Adults (65 to < 75 years)

Adults (75 to < 85 years)

Adults (85 years and over)

Population

Population size

210968

Active population size

119069

Population by age group

Age group	Population size	Active population size
Adult and elderly population (≥18 years)	210968	119069
Adults (18 to < 65 years)	94337	68430
Adults (18 to < 46 years)	15576	13436
Adults (46 to < 65 years)	78761	54994
Elderly (≥ 65 years)	116631	50639
Adults (65 to < 75 years)	60863	32060

Age group	Population size	Active population size
Adults (75 to < 85 years)	41526	15528
Adults (85 years and over)	14242	3051

Data flows and management

Access and validation

Biospecimen access

Are biospecimens available in the data source (e.g., tissue samples)?

No

Access to subject details

Can individual patients/practitioners/practices included in the data source be contacted?

No

Description of data collection

The cancer registration database is created based on notifications on all new cancer diagnoses that are provided by oncological care programs (hospital network), and the laboratories of pathological anatomy (laboratory network). For this initial OMOP mapping, only breast and lung cancer diagnoses are included for incidence years 2014–2023.

The BCR database can be deterministically linked to multiple other datasets using the national social security number (INSZ-NISS) as a unique patient identifier. Performed linkages for this initial OMOP mapping include:

• Vital status information

• Health insurance reimbursement data (drugs, surgery, radiotherapy)

Event triggering registration

Event triggering registration of a person in the data source

Disease diagnosis

Event triggering de-registration of a person in the data source

Death

Loss to follow up

Event triggering creation of a record in the data source

Registration of a new diagnosis by an oncological care programs (hospital network) or a positive sample for a cancer diagnosis in a pathological laboratory. In our dataset, only breast cancer and lung cancer are currently available for incidence years 2014 - 2023.

Data source linkage

Linkage

Is the data source described created by the linkage of other data sources (prelinked data source) and/or can the data source be linked to other data source on an ad-hoc basis?

Yes

Linkage description, pre-linked

• Crossroads Bank for Social Security (CBSS) --> Vital status information

• Health insurance reimbursement data from the InterMutualistic Agency (drugs, surgery, radiotherapy)

Linked data sources

Pre linked

Is the data source described created by the linkage of other data sources?

No

Linkage strategy

Deterministic

Linkage variable

National Social Security Number (INSZ-NISS) as a unique patient identifier

Data management specifications that apply for the data source

Data source refresh

Yearly

Possibility of data validation

Can validity of the data in the data source be verified (e.g., access to original medical charts)?

Yes

Data source preservation

Are records preserved in the data source indefinitely?

No

Approval for publication

Is an approval needed for publishing the results of a study using the data source?

No

Data source last refresh

28/05/2025

Common Data Model (CDM) mapping

CDM mapping

Has the data source been converted (ETL-ed) to a common data model?

Yes

CDM Mappings

CDM name

OMOP

CDM website

https://www.ohdsi.org/Data-standardization/

Data source ETL CDM version

v5.4

Data source ETL status

In progress