In order to compare the survival rate in Japan with those in the USA and European countries, we abstracted the 5-year relative survival rate from several data sources. Survival rates of cancer diagnosed in 1995–99 in the USA were abstracted from 18 cancer registries in the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) data (1). Survival rates of cancer diagnosed in 1995–99 in the UK and Norway were from four cancer registries (Norway, the UK: Northern Ireland, the UK: Scotland and the UK: Wales) in the European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR) data (2), and the rate of cancer diagnosed in 2000–02 in Japan was reported from six cancer registries (Miyagi, Yamagata, Niigata, Fukui, Osaka and Nagasaki) in the Monitoring of Cancer Incidence in Japan (MCIJ) project (3). Here, we compared the survival rate of pancreas cancer coded as C25 (ICD10).

Figure 1 shows the 5-year relative survival rate of pancreas cancer by age category for males; Fig. 2 shows these data for females. For both males and females, survival rates for pancreas cancer were below 30%. The survival rate showed a steep decline with age.
decline according to age. The age group 15–44 years showed a survival rate around 15% for males and 25% for females. The survival rate declined in the second age group, 45–54 years, to 5–10% and the rates remained at the same level for the older age groups. When males and females were compared, female survival rates were higher than those for males only in the young age groups. No international variance was found in the survival rate in those over 45 years old. The survival rate and the pattern of decline according to age were almost the same in all countries. Males in Japan tended to have lower survival rates for the youngest age group. Similarly, females in the UK, Wales showed a low survival rate for the youngest age group.

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