Loss in life expectancy reveals the hurdles still faced in managing diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

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Researchers have developed a new way to interpret risk and prognosis in patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

Using a novel statistical method, they've calculated the loss in life expectancy for those affected by the cancer.

This value represents the difference in remaining life years between patients and the general population.

Unlike 5-year survival, loss in life expectancy offers a straightforward way to estimate the impact of cancer over a person's entire lifespan.

The researchers estimated trends in life-years lost due to cancer for recently diagnosed patients and for two-year survivors before and after rituximab became available.

And found that patients diagnosed in the rituximab era experienced fewer years lost than those diagnosed in the early 2000s.

But the results also revealed that young high-risk patients with primary refractory disease and early relapse still experience significantly reduced life expectancies, highlighting one of the most important groups still in need of new approaches to disease management.
