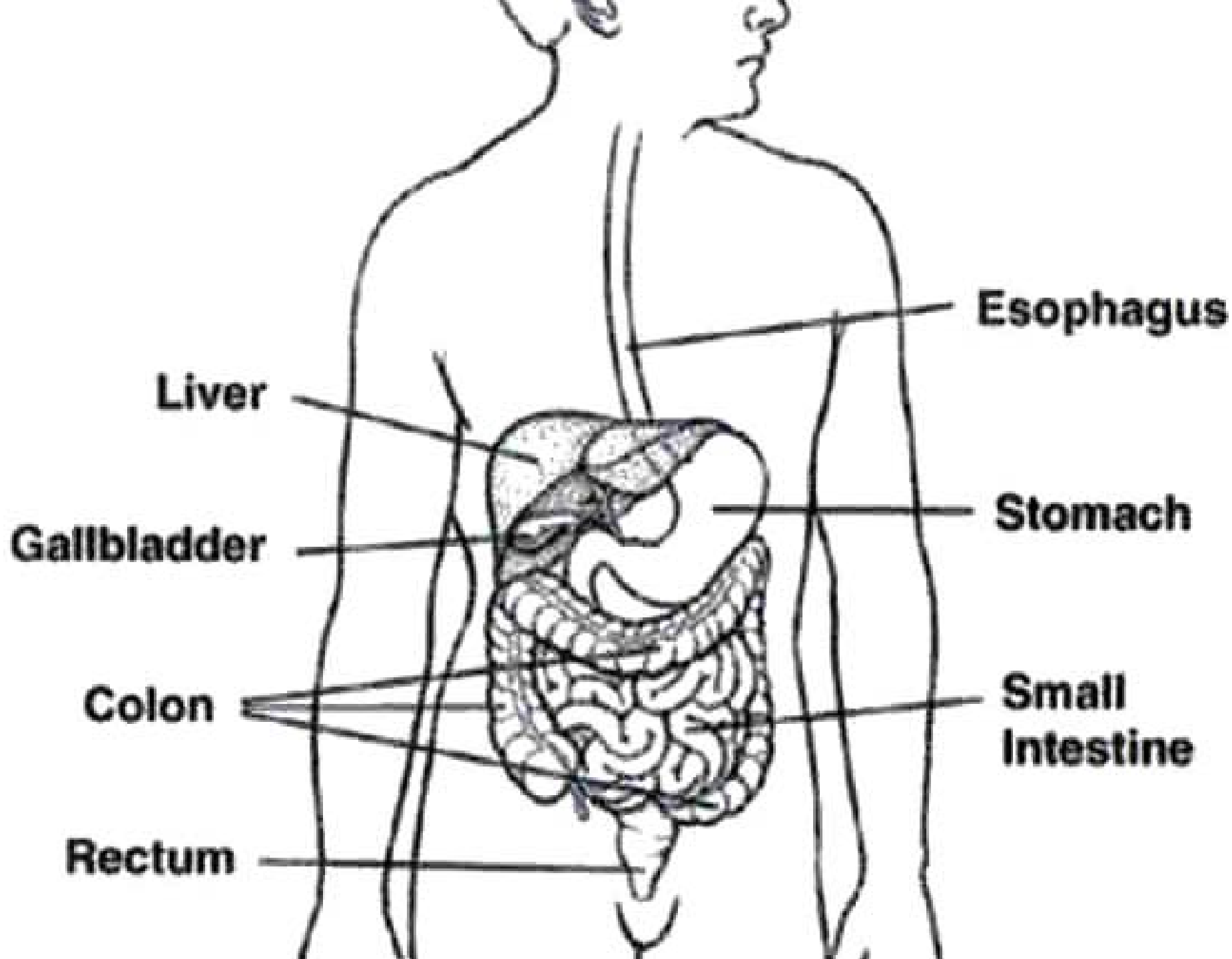


# CANCER OF THE LIVER

HEPATOCELLULAR  
CARCINOMA



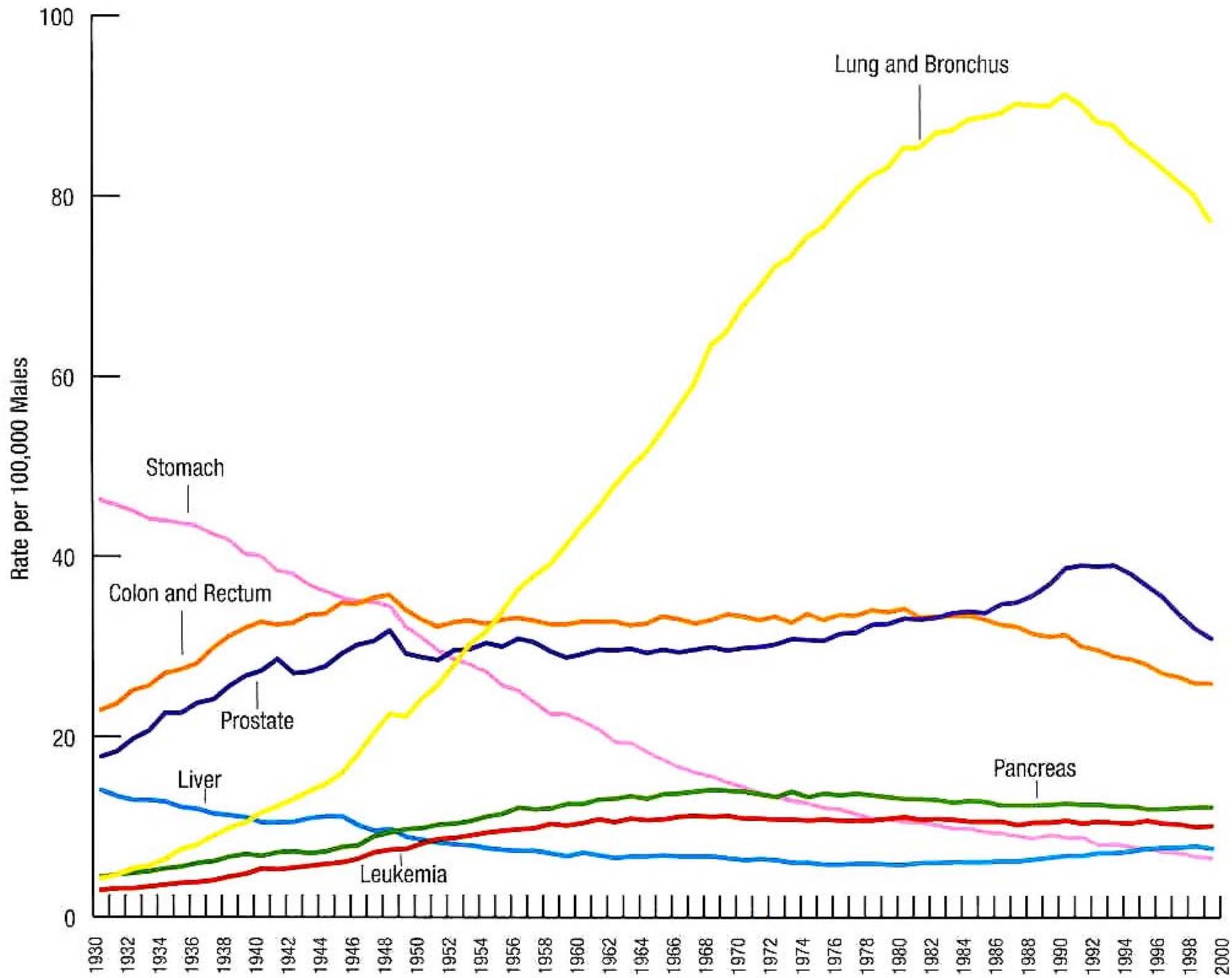


# WHAT IS CANCER OF THE LIVER?

- **Hepatocellular carcinoma is the most common form and it comes from the main type of liver cell, the hepatocyte.**
- **About 3 out of 4 primary liver cancers are hepatocellular carcinoma.**
- **Cholangiocarcinoma starts in the small bile ducts that carry bile to the gallbladder.**
- **About 1 or 2 out of ten cases of liver cancer are cholangiocarcinomas.**

# HOW MANY PEOPLE GET CANCER OF THE LIVER?

- 18,920 cases of liver cancer and bile duct cancer in U.S. in year 2004.
- 14,270 will die of this cancer.
- It is twice as common in men as in women.
- 14<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in the U.S.
- 5<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in Hmong population.



# WHAT CAUSES CANCER OF THE LIVER?

- Chronic infection with hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV)
- Cirrhosis (scar tissues in liver) due to alcohol, hepatitis, or too much iron in the liver.
- Tobacco use.
- Aflatoxins from a fungus that can contaminate peanuts, wheat, soybeans, groundnuts, corn, and rice.

# CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- **HEPATITIS B TRANSMISSION:**
- **Hepatitis B is found in body fluids including blood, saliva, semen, mucus, vaginal fluid, and breast milk.**
- **It can be transmitted through sexual activity, sharing injecting equipment, toothbrushes, or razors.**
- **It can be transmitted from mother to child at birth.**

# CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- **WAYS TO REDUCE HEPATITIS B TRANSMISSION:**
- **Wash hands after touching blood or body fluids.**
- **Avoid sharing personal hygiene items that may come into contact with body fluids.**
- **Cover all cuts and open sores with bandage.**
- **Practice safe sex.**

# CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- **Hepatitis B vaccination**
  - For all children.
  - For adults at high risk.
- **Avoid alcohol abuse.**
- **There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.**

# CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- **HEPATITIS C TRANSMISSION:**
- **Hepatitis C is transmitted by blood to blood contact only.**
- **Transmission can occur through sharing of needles, unsterile tattooing, body piercing.**
- **Sharing razor blades and toothbrushes.**
- **Certain sexual activities.**
- **Mother to baby.**

# HOW IS CANCER OF THE LIVER FOUND?

- SYMPTOMS:
- Loss of appetite and weight
- Jaundice (yellow discoloration of eyes and skin)
- Swelling of the abdomen
- Pain in the abdomen.

# HOW IS CANCER OF THE LIVER DIAGNOSED?

- **TESTS:**
- **Blood tests of liver function.**
- **AFP (alpha fetoprotein) blood test.**
- **Blood tests for Hepatitis B and C.**

# HOW IS CANCER OF THE LIVER DIAGNOSED?

- TESTS:
- Ultrasound of the liver.
- CT scan or MRI scan of liver.
- Biopsy
- Angiogram of the liver.
- Laparoscopy.

# **STAGING OF CANCER OF THE LIVER:**

- **Stage I – Single small tumor less than 2 cm.**
- **Stage II – Single large tumor or many small tumors confined to one lobe of the liver.**
- **Stage III – Many large tumors confined to one lobe of the liver or cancer spread to lymph nodes**
- **Stage IV – Cancer spread to both lobes of the liver.**

# TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- **SURGERY:**
- **Curative intent in Stages I, II**
- **Liver wedge resection**
- **Liver lobectomy**
- **Liver transplantation**

# TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- CHEMOTHERAPY:
  - Drugs given by hepatic artery infusion.
  - Drugs given by chemo embolization.

# TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- **CHEMOTHERAPY**
- **SIDE EFFECTS:**
  - **Nausea and/or vomiting**
  - **Decreased appetite**
  - **Temporary loss of hair**
  - **Sores in mouth or vagina**
  - **Increased chance of infection**
  - **Bleeding with minor cuts**
  - **Anemia or low blood count**
  - **Tiredness**

# TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- Radiation therapy by external beam is not often used.
- Radiofrequency ablation.
- Cryotherapy

# CANCER OF THE LIVER

- SURVIVAL RATES AT 5 YEARS:
- Early localized cancer – 30-40%
- All stages combined – 10%



# Hepatocellular Carcinoma

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- One of the leading causes of cancer deaths in Asia.
- Incidence very high among Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese immigrants.
- Relationship to Hepatitis B and C.
- Hepatitis B vaccine is being offered to all newborns and children in U.S.