

Now What?

Some of the doctors in the area chose to alert the health authority. Then, the Alberta Cancer Board, supported by the province's governing health authority, Alberta Health Services, conducted a comparative survey to see whether the rates of cancer were statistically significant. The comparative survey found the following:

- Of the six cholangiocarcinomas that the doctors suspected, two cases were confirmed and this was found to be within the expected range. Three of the suspected cases were other types of cancer and one was not cancer.
- The cancer rate overall (51 cancers in 47 individuals out of a population of approximately 1,200 people) was higher than expected (39 cancers in a population of approximately 1,200 people).
- Higher than expected numbers of cancers of the blood and lymphatic system, biliary tract cancers as a group, and soft tissue cancers were found.
- These findings were based on a small number of cases and could be due to chance, increased detection, or increased risk in the community.

What do we know?

What do we need to know?

What should we do?