

Published in the journal [Clinical Oncology](#) in December 2004, the results of this study were astounding, showing that chemotherapy has an average 5-year survival success rate of just over **2 percent** for all cancers!

Table 2 – Impact of cytotoxic chemotherapy on 5-year survival in American adults

Malignancy	ICD-9	Number of cancers in people aged >20 years*	Absolute number of 5-year survivors due to chemotherapy†	Percentage 5-year survivors due to chemotherapy‡
Head and neck	140–149, 160, 161	5139	97	1.9
Oesophagus	150	1521	82	4.9
Stomach	151	3001	20	0.7
Colon	153	13936	146	1.0
Rectum	154	5533	189	3.4
Pancreas	157	3567	—	—
Lung	162	20741	410	2.0
Soft tissue sarcoma	171	858	—	—
Melanoma	172	8646	—	—
Breast	174	31133	446	1.4
Uterus	179–182	4611	—	—
Cervix	180	1825	219	12
Ovary	183	3032	269	8.9
Prostate	185	23242	—	—
Testis	186	989	373	37.7
Bladder	188	6667	—	—
Kidney	189	3722	—	—
Brain	191	1824	68	3.7
Unknown primary site	195–199	6200	—	—
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	200 + 202	6217	653	10.5
Hodgkin's disease	201	846	341	40.3
Multiple myeloma	203	1721	—	—
Total		154971	3306	2.1%

In the U.S., chemo was most successful in treating testicular cancer and Hodgkin's disease, where its success rate fell just below 38 percent and slightly over 40 percent respectively. Still well below the 50/50 mark...