Cancer in the Czech Republic has been under considerable strain due to the growing incidence and prevalence rates of most cancer types. Each year in the Czech Republic (total population over 10.5 million), more than 7,000 people are diagnosed with cancer and nearly 4,000 die from it. In 2011, there were more than 450,000 adults in the country, who have received a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their life. The health care is lead to a further aggressively by the high proportion of cancer cases diagnosed in late stages.

The major factor of the Czech population ranks among the highest worldwide [12]. There is an often relatively high burden of colorectal cancer, closely followed by breast, bronchus and lung cancer and prostate cancer. The most frequent diagnoses in the cancer registries are: colorectal cancer, cancer of the uterus, and trachea, bronchus and lung cancer. All these diagnoses also rank among the most frequent ones with respect to mortality rates in both men and women. High mortality rates have also been observed in pancreatic, stomach, breast and esophageal cancer. Growth in cancer incidence rates can also be expected in near future, due to the demographic structures and needs of the Czech Republic and in compliance with the conclusions of the Czech National Cancer Control Programme created in accordance with the conclusions of the Council of the European Union.

The Czech National Cancer Control Programme was created in accordance with the conditions and needs of the Czech Republic and in compliance with the conclusions of WHO-Consultation on Strategies to Improve and Strengthen Cancer Control Programmes in Europe held on 25–26 November 2000 in Geneva.

**Aims:**
- Lowering cancer incidence and mortality.
- Improving quality of life of cancer patients.
- Making the best use of available resources for cancer diagnosis and treatment in the Czech Republic.
- Optimising approach in modern diagnostic and treatment methods.

**Strategy:**
- Fight against malignant tumours as a part of national and regional political agenda.
- Making the fight against malignant tumours an interest of vital concern to lay professional.
- Empowering importance of cancer risk factors and decreasing their effects.
- Ensuring early and effective diagnosis of cancer.
- Ensuring equity in accessibility of cancer care for all patients, including palliative care.
- Sustainability of the fight against cancer by cost control.
- Assessment and continuous evaluation of indicators, outputs and outcomes.
- Strengthening the specialty structures in terms of education, clinical practice, and research.
- Building a network of comprehensive cancer centres in the Czech Republic.

Czech National Cancer Control Programme

All internationally recommended cancer screening programmes are available for the citizens of the Czech Republic. People aged 50 years and over can participate in colorectal cancer screening, women aged over 46 can undergo mammography, and all adults can attend cervical cancer screening. In accordance to the recommendations by the Council of the European Union, all screening examinations are offered twice of organized programmes, with strictly defined procedures and assured quality control. Health care facilities involved in providing screening examinations functioning through registry centres, cytology centres, and pathology laboratories. A network of comprehensive cancer registries. A system of personalized invitation to cancer screening was launched in early 2004, which turned the organized programmes into population-based.

**References**