INTRODUCTION

The rate of non-interventional treatment (NIT) in prostate cancer (PCa) active surveillance (AS) candidates was shown to be on the rise. However, contemporary data have not been reported. To address this void, we examined NIT rate between 2010-2014, within 16 Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) registries.

RESULTS

We identified 21,398 PCa patients that fulfilled the University of California, San Francisco AS criteria (prostate specific antigen [PSA] <10ng/ml, clinical T stage <T2a, Gleason score ≤6, and percent of positive cores <33%). Annual NIT rates, as well as the patient distribution according to PSA, age, number of positive cores and clinical T stage were studied. Multivariable logistic regression analysis (MLR) tested NIT predictors. LOESS plots graphically depicted the effect of patient and tumour characteristics on NIT rate.

CONCLUSIONS

The rate of NIT has markedly increased across all examined SEER-registries. Nonetheless, very important differences distinguish high-end NIT users from low-end NIT users. PCa characteristics of NIT patients remained unchanged overtime. However, in addition to geographical differences in NIT rates, patient characteristic such as age, marital and insurance status represent potential NIT access barriers.