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**Supplementary Table S1: Distribution of the case sample and the remaining patients who died within three months of diagnosis who were not included in the study**

Characteristics		Case Sample n=484	Cases not included n=196	P value
Sex %	Male	52.7	44.3	0.05 <sup>x</sup>
	Female	47.3	55.7	
Year diagnosed %	2005-06	39.2	29.4	<0.01 <sup>x</sup>
	2007-08	38.5	18.40	
	2009-10	22.3	51.3	
Dukes stage %	A	2.3	1.0	0.27 <sup>x</sup>
	B	10.1	7.0	
	C	10.7	9.0	
	D	37.0	44.3	
	Unknown	39.9	38.8	
Deprivation quintile %	1 (least deprived)	16.6	15.2	0.87 <sup>x</sup>
	2	20.9	22.7	
	3	17.4	18.7	
	4	24.8	21.7	
	5 (most deprived)	20.3	21.7	
Mean age at diagnosis in years (Standard deviation)		76.5 (10.6)	77.6 (10.3)	0.83 <sup>†</sup>
Mean survival duration in days (Standard deviation)		36.7 (24.7)	33.8 (39.9)	0.82 <sup>β</sup>

*P-values presented for chi squared tests ( $\chi$ ), t-tests ( $t$ ) and Kaplan Meier ( $\beta$ )*