

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON MALIGNANT BREAST NEOPLASMS IN PARÁ

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Introduction: Breast cancer is the main malignant neoplasm among Brazilian women, and Pará, located in the northern region of Brazil, faces peculiar challenges related to early diagnosis and access to treatment. The analysis of the epidemiological profile of cases in the region is essential to support public policies aimed at prevention, early detection and cancer care. **Objectives:** To analyze, identify and characterize breast cancer cases in women in the state of Pará from 2020 to 2024. **Methods:** This is an epidemiological, descriptive, retrospective and quantitative study, with analysis of secondary data extracted from the Brazilian Oncology Panel and the Cancer Information System SISCAN/DATASUS. All breast cancer records (ICD-10: C50) in women living in Pará, diagnosed between 2020 and 2024, were included. The variables analyzed were age, race/color, clinical stage at diagnosis, and time between diagnosis and start of treatment. **Results:** In the analyzed period (2020–2024), 4,823 cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in women in Pará. The most affected age group was between 50 and 59 years old (37.4%), followed by the 60- to 69-year-old group (28.1%) and 40 to 49 years old (18.9%). Regarding race/color, most women declared themselves to be brown (63%), followed by white (21%) and black (11%). Regarding the clinical stage, 41% of the cases were diagnosed in stage II and 28% in stage III, indicating a predominance of late diagnoses. In addition, 53% of the women started treatment after the recommended period of 60 days, as recommended by Law No. 12,732/2012. **Conclusion:** Most cases of breast cancer in Pará were diagnosed in intermediate or advanced stages, which compromises the prognosis of patients. The delay in the start of treatment, present in more than half of the cases, highlights weaknesses in the organization of the oncology care network, as well as inequalities in access to diagnostic and treatment services. Previous studies corroborate these findings and highlight that the North region has one of the lowest rates of mammographic screening in the country. Socioeconomic factors, geographic distance from specialized centers, low primary care coverage, and lack of effective prevention campaigns contribute to this scenario. The analysis shows that breast cancer in the state of Pará is mostly diagnosed in advanced stages, with a high proportion of delay in the initiation of treatment. These findings reinforce the need to strengthen screening actions, health education, and organization of the line of cancer care in the state, especially in regions with less access to specialized services.

Keywords: Breast cancer; Epidemiology; SISCAN; Stop; Women's health.