

MORTALITY FROM FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA IN NORTHERN BRAZIL BETWEEN 2019 AND 2023: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Introduction: Follicular lymphoma (FL) is a common subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), originating from germinal center B-cells. It accounts for approximately 20% to 30% of NHL cases and is more prevalent among individuals over 60 years of age. Although treatment response is generally favorable, advanced stages can progress to more aggressive disease. In Brazil, from 2010 to 2020, a total of 91,468 lymphoma cases were reported, 74% of which were NHL, with an annual average of nearly 5,000 deaths. The Northern Region of the country presents an alarming scenario, with only 16 recorded FL cases between 2019 and 2024, suggesting potential underreporting or diagnostic challenges. Therefore, regional analyses are essential to understanding health inequities, particularly in under-resourced areas such as Northern Brazil. **Objectives:** To analyze mortality data related to follicular lymphoma in Northern Brazil from 2019 to 2023, focusing on temporal distribution, sex, age group, and geographic location. **Methods:** A descriptive, retrospective epidemiological study was conducted to assess mortality rates from follicular lymphoma in Northern Brazil between 2019 and 2023. Data were obtained from the Mortality Information System (SIM), available via the TABNET/DATASUS platform, managed by the Department of Informatics of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS), Ministry of Health. Death records associated with ICD-10 code C82 (follicular lymphoma) were included. The analyzed variables were year of death, sex, age group, and state of residence. **Results:** Between 2019 and 2023, 58 deaths from follicular lymphoma were reported in the Northern Region, with an average of 11.6 deaths per year. Pará accounted for the highest number of deaths ($n = 24$), followed by Amazonas ($n = 18$). The states of Acre, Roraima, Amapá, and Rondônia reported fewer cases, while Tocantins had no recorded deaths. The majority of decedents were male (60%), with most deaths occurring in the 60–79 age group (53%) and in individuals aged 80 or older (24%). The highest mortality rates per 100,000 inhabitants were observed in Acre (1.13), Roraima (0.94), and Pará (0.72). These findings highlight disparities among states,

potentially related to differences in diagnostic access, healthcare infrastructure, and reporting practices. **Conclusion:** Between 2019 and 2023, mortality from follicular lymphoma in Northern Brazil remained stable, with Acre showing a notably high rate. Analysis by place of residence suggests that some patients may have died outside their home states while seeking treatment. The elevated mortality rate in Acre indicates challenges in accessing adequate care. These findings emphasize the need to strengthen epidemiological surveillance, promote early diagnosis, and improve healthcare infrastructure in the region.

Keywords: Follicular lymphoma; mortality; northern Brazil.