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THE HOSPITAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY OF MALIGNANT SKIN NEOPLASMS IN THE STATE OF PARÁ: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF RELATED CASES BETWEEN 2020 AND 2025

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Introduction: Malignant skin neoplasms remain a critical public health issue in the state of Pará. Due to its geographical location near the equatorial line, the population is exposed to higher levels of solar radiation, increasing the risk of developing these tumors. Despite public educational campaigns promoting regular sunscreen use, morbidity and mortality rates remain concerning, reinforcing the importance of monitoring reported cases to support early intervention strategies aimed at reducing disease burden. **Objective:** To analyze the epidemiological profile of hospital morbidity and mortality due to malignant skin neoplasms (ICD-10: C44) in the state of Pará between 2020 and 2025, in order to inform the development of effective public health strategies. **Methods:** This observational, quantitative epidemiological study used secondary data obtained from the DATASUS platform, specifically from the Hospital Information System of the Unified Health System (SIH/SUS) and the Mortality Information System (SIM/SUS). All data referred to hospitalizations and deaths recorded in the state of Pará between 2020 and 2025. Variables analyzed included sex, age group and race. **Results:** A total of 350 hospitalizations due to malignant skin neoplasms were recorded during the study period, with 37 deaths, resulting in a mortality rate of 10.57%. Among municipalities, Belém showed the highest concentration of cases, with 154 hospitalizations and 28 deaths, corresponding to a mortality rate of 18.18%. Hospitalizations were more frequent among males (188 cases and 21 deaths) and among individuals aged 60–69 years (74 cases and 11 deaths), who also presented the highest mortality rate (14.86%). Racial analysis indicated that mixed-race (pardo) individuals were the most affected, with 260 cases and 26 deaths. **Conclusion:** The findings indicate that between 2020 and 2025, the capital city of Belém concentrated the highest number of hospitalizations and deaths due to malignant skin neoplasms, likely reflecting its role as the main oncological referral center in the state, which contributes to increased hospital lethality. Higher mortality among male patients may be associated with lower adherence to preventive measures and delayed health-seeking behavior, while in the 60–69 age group, comorbidities, reduced immunity and treatment adherence difficulties may play a role. The elevated morbidity observed

among mixed-race individuals may reflect the demographic profile of the state and underlying socioeconomic factors affecting access to diagnosis and continuity of care. Additionally, the high hospitalization burden in Belém represents a challenge for the local health system, as referral hospitals are frequently overburdened, potentially compromising the quality of care provided to the city's residents. Strengthening the oncology care network in inland regions of the state is therefore essential to reduce late referrals of severe cases to the capital.

Keywords: Hospital morbidity; Hospitalizations; Skin neoplasms.