

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE PANCREAS IN BRAZIL: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THEIR IMPACTS

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Introduction: Pancreatic cancer is highly lethal, often diagnosed at a locally advanced or metastatic stage due to its difficulty in detection and relatively common clinical symptoms, such as abdominal pain and nausea. Although the World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend population-wide screening due to the low incidence of this neoplasm, its high mortality rate draws attention, especially considering that even after surgical treatment, patients may not have a life expectancy beyond five years. In general, the disease manifests as a ductal adenocarcinoma, with resection being the most commonly used surgical technique. **Objectives:** This study aims to analyze pancreatic cancer and its territorial distribution in Brazil, as well as its trend over time. The objective is to contribute to a broader understanding of pancreatic tumors in the national context and to raise awareness among healthcare professionals about a condition that continuously affects populations worldwide, particularly the Brazilian population. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional, retrospective, and descriptive epidemiological study based on the analysis of hospital morbidity data provided by the Brazilian Unified Health System's Information Department (DATASUS). Hospitalization and mortality records for malignant neoplasms of the pancreas, organized by year and region of Brazil, were considered for the last ten years (2015–2024). The data were compiled and analyzed using Microsoft Excel 2016 for subsequent presentation. **Results:** Analysis of the database revealed a total of 133,807 hospitalizations due to malignant neoplasms of the pancreas in the country. A growing trend was observed, with an average annual increase of approximately 1,145 hospitalizations throughout the study period. Although deaths showed a slight reduction between 2020 and 2021, an average annual increase of approximately 157 deaths was also identified, evidencing a progressive rise in both hospitalizations and deaths related to pancreatic cancer. The Southeast region recorded the highest number of hospitalizations over the ten-year period, totaling 62,801 cases, while the North region had the lowest, with 4,060 records. However, despite the lower number of

hospitalizations, the North stood out for having the highest lethality rate, indicating a greater proportion of deaths among patients hospitalized for this neoplasm. **Conclusions:** The analyzed data demonstrate a progressive increase in both hospitalizations and deaths from pancreatic cancer in Brazil over the past decade, highlighting the epidemiological relevance of this neoplasm. The regional disparities, particularly the high lethality rate in the North, underscore the need for public policies focused on equitable access to early diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Despite the lack of international population-wide screening guidelines, the findings of this study indicate the urgency for regional strategies that promote greater efficiency in case management, contributing to the reduction of mortality associated with this condition.

Keywords: Pancreatic neoplasms; epidemiological study; Brazil; lethality.