

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM PENILE CANCER IN THE LEGAL AMAZON (2020–2023)

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Introduction: Penile cancer is a rare malignant neoplasm in developed countries but has a high incidence in socioeconomically disadvantaged regions such as the Legal Amazon. Factors such as poor hygiene, HPV infection, lack of circumcision, and low educational levels contribute to the development and worsening of the disease. The analysis of deaths from this cause can support the formulation of effective public policies, especially in vulnerable areas. **Objectives:** To analyze deaths from penile cancer in the Legal Amazon between 2020 and 2023, using secondary data from the Cancer Information System (SISCAN), focusing on sociodemographic aspects. **Methods:** Using a quantitative approach, a cross-sectional ecological study was conducted, utilizing publicly accessible data from DataSUS. Selected variables included the total distribution of deaths by race and age group. **Results:** From 2020 to 2023, approximately 500 deaths from penile cancer were recorded in the Legal Amazon, according to data extracted from SISCAN. A higher prevalence was observed among mixed-race men, with approximately 65% of cases, followed by white men (20%) and black men (10%). Regarding age groups, men between 60 and 69 years had the highest number of cases, accounting for 35% of deaths, followed by those aged 70 to 79 years (30%) and 50 to 59 years (20%). Various structural barriers and the predominance of deaths among self-identified mixed-race men reflect social and regional inequalities, hindering access to healthcare services. The data analyzed reflect structural inequalities in access to early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of penile cancer. Low coverage of educational campaigns focused on intimate hygiene, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) — particularly HPV — and the stigma associated with genital examinations exacerbate the situation. Furthermore, the concentration of deaths among older and mixed-race individuals highlights the critical role of social determinants of health in the progression of the disease. The findings indicate that numerous structural and socioeconomic barriers impact access to diagnosis and treatment, highlighting the urgent need for public policies aimed at health education, screening, and early treatment. **Conclusions:** The study reinforces the need to strengthen actions for prevention, screening, and early diagnosis, particularly in the state of Pará. It also emphasizes the importance of expanding access to oncology care,

especially among men aged 70 to 79 years, a phase where timely screening can be crucial for early diagnosis.

Keywords: Penile cancer; mortality; health inequality; men's health.