

SILENT RISE: ALARMING TRENDS IN MORTALITY FROM DIFFUSE NONHODGKIN LYMPHOMA IN PARÁ, BRAZIL (2019–2023)

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Introduction: Diffuse non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) is a hematologic neoplasm characterized by high incidence and growing public health impact. In Brazil, NHL comprises a substantial share of lymphoid malignancies, with marked regional disparities. In the Northern Region, particularly Pará, access to early diagnosis and accurate subtype classification remains limited. **Objectives:** To analyze temporal trends and demographic patterns of mortality due to diffuse non-Hodgkin lymphoma (ICD-10 C83) in Pará between 2019 and 2023, identifying gaps in diagnostic services, access to care, and subtype reporting. **Methods:** This is an epidemiological, descriptive and retrospective study based on mortality data from diffuse non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (ICD10 C83) in Pará. The data were obtained from the Mortality Information System (SIM) via TABNET/DATASUS, covering the period from 2019 to 2023. The variables analyzed were: Year of death (2019-2023); Age group (20 to 79 years); Sex (male and female); Color/race (white, black, brown, yellow and indigenous); Place of occurrence (hospital, home, public road and other health establishments); and Lymphoma subtype classified according to ICD-10 codes, which are C83 (diffuse non-Hodgkin lymphoma), C84 (cutaneous and peripheral T-cell lymphomas) and C85 (other types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and unspecified types). **Results:** Between 2019 and 2023, 294 deaths from non-Hodgkin lymphomas were recorded in the state of Pará, considering individuals aged 20 to 79 years. Category C85 was the most prevalent, totaling 216 deaths (73.5%), followed by category C83, with 65 cases (22.1%), and C84, with 13 deaths (4.4%). There was also an upward trend in the total number of deaths over the five years analyzed: from 56 in 2019 to 73 in 2023, representing an increase of approximately 30%. Category C85 remained the main cause of death from lymphoma in all years, with a significant increase in 2023, which represented 56 deaths in this category alone. In relative terms, lymphomas classified as C83 and C84 showed variable proportions between years, with an increase in category C83 – Diffuse nonHodgkin's lymphoma in 2023 (20.5%) and slight fluctuation in category

C84, which maintained low proportions in all years analyzed. The analysis of the subgroups revealed that most deaths occurred in individuals aged between 60 and 69 years, in addition to a predominance of males and brown skin color, in accordance with the demographic pattern of the population of Pará. These findings suggest not only a trend of progressive increase in mortality from diffuse non-Hodgkin lymphomas in Pará, but also indicate possible difficulties in diagnostic classification, evidenced by the high proportion of non-Hodgkin lymphomas in the state. **Conclusion:** The rising mortality from diffuse NHL in Pará, especially among individuals aged 20–79 years, highlights the need to improve diagnostic accuracy, early detection, and access to effective treatment. The high proportion of unspecified subtypes (C85) points to gaps in pathology services, possibly due to limited use of immunophenotyping and molecular tools. These trends may also reflect delayed diagnoses and restricted access to care in underserved areas, underscoring structural weaknesses in the local healthcare system that demand targeted interventions.

Keywords: Diffuse non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; mortality; epidemiology; Pará.