

## STOMACH NEOPLASMS IN STATE OF PARÁ, BRAZIL: THE UNSEEN IMPACT OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND THERAPEUTIC DISPARITIES IN A DECADE

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**Introduction:** Stomach cancer (SC) is a highly lethal neoplasm, ranking as the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Its etiopathogenesis is multifactorial, involving modifiable factors—such as poor diet, smoking, and *Helicobacter pylori* infection—and non-modifiable factors—such as advanced age and male sex. In Brazil, Law No. 12,732/2012 ensures the initiation of oncological treatment within the Unified Health System (UHS) within 60 days after diagnosis, encompassing chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgical approaches, according to clinical conduct. **Objectives:** To analyze the evolution of malignant stomach neoplasm diagnoses in the state of Pará between 2013 and 2023. **Methods:** This is an ecological, descriptive, and retrospective study of the temporal evolution of diagnoses for Malignant Stomach Neoplasm (*ICD-10*: C16) in the state of Pará from 2013 to 2023. Data were obtained from the Oncology Treatment Monitoring Panel (Oncology-Panel/DATASUS), using the variables: sex, age group, staging, establishment, and therapeutic modality. Data collection took place in April 2025. **Results:** Between 2013 and 2023, a total of 2,556 cases of SC were recorded, with the highest incidence in 2021 (424; 16.6%). Men were more affected (1,699; 66.5%) compared to women (857; 33.5%). Concerning age group, there was a concentration among elderly individuals aged 60 to 64 years (402; 15.7%). Regarding diagnostic staging, stage 4 was the most frequent (681; 26.6%), as well as indeterminate classifications such as “not applicable” and “ignored” (941; 36.8%). The majority of diagnoses were established at the Ophir Loyola Hospital (1,439; 56.3%) and the João de Barros Barreto University Hospital (577; 22.6%), both reference oncology centers. As for therapeutic modality, chemotherapy was the most used treatment (1,474; 57.7%), while radiotherapy was the least used (120; 4.7%), in addition to cases classified as “no information” (533; 20.9%). **Conclusion:** This temporal analysis revealed heterogeneity in the number of diagnoses, with a peak in 2021. Most cases involved men and elderly individuals aged 60 to 64 years, frequently diagnosed at advanced or undefined stages. Chemotherapy (57.7%) was the main therapeutic modality, possibly reflecting limited surgical or radiotherapeutic options. These findings indicate the need to strengthen public

policies aimed at prevention and treatment planning, considering sex- and age-specific profiles.

**Keywords:** Stomach neoplasms; diagnosis; medical oncology