

CANCER RISK IN A QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITY IN BAIXO TOCANTINS (PA): APPLICATION OF Q-CANCER IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

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Introduction: Quilombola communities in the Brazilian Amazon face unique health challenges, including limited access to medical services and exposure to specific risk factors. Assessing cancer risk in these populations is essential for developing prevention and early detection strategies. **Objectives:** To assess the estimated risk of cancer in a quilombola community in Baixo Tocantins, Pará, using the Q-Cancer questionnaire, and to identify possible differences in risk between sexes. **Methods** This was a cross-sectional study approved by the research ethics committee of ITPAC Porto Nacional, CAAE 85751624.3.0000.8075, which included members of a quilombola community in the Baixo Tocantins region (PA). Participants answered the Q-Cancer questionnaire, which estimates the risk of various types of cancer based on clinical and demographic factors. Information on age, lifestyle habits (smoking and alcohol consumption) and family history of cancer was collected. Statistical analysis included calculation of means, standard deviations and significance tests for comparison between genders. **Results:** The mean age was 47.6 years for men and 36.6 years for women ($p=0.246$). Alcoholism was significantly more prevalent among men (60%) compared to women (0%) ($p=0.002$). The mean total cancer risk estimated by Q-Cancer was 23.9% for men and 12.6% for women ($p=0.701$). Men had significantly higher risks for gastroesophageal (4.8% vs. 0.9%; $p=0.037$), testicular (0.1% vs. 0%; $p=0.007$) and prostate (0.2% vs. 0%; $p=0.007$) cancers. Women had significantly higher risks for breast (1.8% vs. 0%; $p=0.015$), cervical (0.3% vs. 0%; $p=0.002$), uterine (0.4% vs. 0%; $p=0.013$) and ovarian (0.3% vs. 0%; $p=0.001$) cancers. **Conclusion:** The application of Q-Cancer revealed significant differences in the estimated risk of cancer between men and women in the quilombola community studied, reflecting expected patterns according to sex. The high prevalence of alcoholism among men may contribute to the

increased risk of gastrointestinal cancers. These findings highlight the importance of prevention and screening strategies adapted to the cultural and epidemiological specificities of quilombola communities in the Amazon.

Keywords: Cancer; Quilombolas; Riverside communities; Risk factors; Public health; Health inequalities; Q-Cancer; Cancer prevention.