

FAMILY HISTORY AS A RISK FACTOR FOR GASTRIC CANCER: PERSPECTIVES AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS FROM A BRAZILIAN COHORT

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Introduction: Gastric cancer (GC) remains one of the most lethal neoplasms, representing a significant public health challenge despite its global decline. **Objectives:** To investigate the association between family history and gastric cancer in order to propose prevention and control recommendations for public health. **Methods:** This descriptive and retrospective study examined the association between family history and the risk of GC in 1,638 patients diagnosed with invasive gastric adenocarcinoma, treated between 2018 and 2024 at João de Barros Barreto Hospital (HUJBB) and Ophir Loyola Hospital (HOL), in Belém, Pará, Brazil. Electronic medical records were analyzed, including data on sex, age, geographic origin, ICD classification, tumor location, histological subtypes, family history of GC (detailed by degree of kinship), presence of other cancers in the family, and patient mortality. The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee (CEP) of the Oncology Research Center at the Federal University of Pará, under protocol number 70774823.0.0000.5634. **Results:** A family history of GC was found in 12.3% of patients at HUJBB and 9.75% at HOL, indicating a statistically significant association ($p < 0.05$). Patients under 40 years of age showed a higher frequency of family history (36.3%) compared to 11.6% in the 41–60 age group and 6.6% in those over 60 years ($p < 0.01$). Women showed a slightly higher likelihood of GC associated with family history. Most cases involved first- and second-degree relatives, with a predominance of tumors located in the antrum. **Conclusion:** These findings highlight regional characteristics, such as the high prevalence among young patients in the Amazon region, and reinforce the need for public policies that promote upper gastrointestinal endoscopy screening among first- and second-degree relatives of patients with GC, especially younger individuals, to enable early detection and reduce mortality.

Keywords: Gastric Cancer; Family History; Screening; Risk Factors; Gastric Adenocarcinoma; Prevention.

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The Cancer Control Challenge:
Better Understanding It to Better Face It