

OVERVIEW OF HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE STOMACH IN BRAZIL: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH BETWEEN 2015 AND 2024

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Introduction: Malignant stomach neoplasm is a relevant topic for public health due to its high global mortality rate. Gastric adenocarcinoma is the most common histological type, usually caused by infection with the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*. **Objective:** To analyze the epidemiological patterns of hospitalizations for malignant stomach neoplasms in Brazil over a decade, with the aim of contributing to the formulation of public policies that reduce the incidence of the disease. **Method:** This is a descriptive, retrospective and quantitative study, based on secondary data extracted from the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS). Information available in the Hospital Information System (SIH/SUS) between January 2015 and December 2024 was extracted. The following variables were analyzed: number of hospitalizations, average hospital stay, total amount spent on hospitalizations, mortality rate, gender, and age group. **Results:** During the period studied, 306,371 hospitalizations for malignant stomach neoplasms were recorded in the national territory. The total number of hospitalizations continued to increase between 2015 and 2019, reducing in 2020, registering a new growth from 2021 onwards. The Southeast region concentrated the highest number of hospital admissions 129,163 (42.2%), while the North region recorded the lowest 14,503 (4.7%). The total expenses related to hospital services for stomach cancer totaled R\$741,722,942.89. The Southeast region led again with a total cost of R\$310,682,880.71 (41.9%). The resources invested by the North region were R\$34,942,157.70 (4.7%) of the amount spent throughout Brazil. The North region had the highest average hospital stay, with 9.4 days, which is equivalent to 49.2%, above the national average (6.3 days). The total mortality rate was 14.87%, which was similar between the sexes, 14.89% and 14.90%, respectively. The age group with the highest mortality was 80 years or older, representing 25.49%. **Conclusion:** The analysis reveals worrying information about the panorama of hospitalizations for malignant stomach neoplasm in the country, between 2015 and 2024, mainly due to the implications for public health. The approximate reduction of 9.5% in hospitalizations between 2019 and 2020 indicates possible relationships with the pandemic. The predominance of hospitalizations and expenditures in the Southeast region, the high average hospital stay in the North region, and the high mortality rate among the elderly, underline the need for public health policies aimed at prevention, diagnosis, and early

treatment, as well as strategies to reduce regional and demographic inequalities in the fight against gastric cancer.

Keywords: Gastric neoplasms; Epidemiology; DataSUS.