

SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA MORTALITY: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BELÉM BETWEEN THE YEARS 2019 AND 2023

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Introduction: Soft tissue sarcoma represents a heterogeneous group of malignant neoplasms originating from mesenchymal tissues. Due to their rarity and diverse histological subtypes, these tumors pose significant challenges in terms of diagnosis and management. Understanding the epidemiological characteristics of mortality related to soft tissue sarcomas is fundamental for the development of targeted public health strategies, particularly in regions with marked socioeconomic disparities, such as the metropolitan area of Belém, Brazil. **Objectives:** Analyze the epidemiological profile of mortality associated with soft tissue sarcoma in the metropolitan area of Belém between the years 2019 and 2023. **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional, observational, and quantitative epidemiological study. Mortality data were extracted from the Mortality Information System (SIM) available on DATASUS platform. The study included all recorded deaths in which the underlying cause was classified under ICD-10 code C49 (malignant neoplasms of other connective and soft tissues) during the period from 2019-2023. The variables analyzed included age group, sex, educational attainment and self-reported race/skin color. **Results:** A total of 95 deaths were identified within the study period. The municipality of Belém accounted for the majority of cases (68,4%), followed by Ananindeua (16,8%), Castanhal (6,3%), Barcarena (5,2%), Santa Izabel do Pará (2,1%) and Marituba (1%). In relative terms, Barcarena exhibited the highest mortality rate, with approximately 5 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Belém (4,65:100,000) while Marituba presented the lowest incidence (0,71 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants). Most cases occurred among males (51.5%), older adults aged 60 years or over (61%), individuals with intermediate education (8 to 11 years of schooling, 30.5%) and those self-identified as *pardo* (multiracial Brazilians according to Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statics) with 70.5%. Temporal analysis revealed a slight upward trend in mortality, with the highest number of deaths recorded in 2023 (27,3%), followed by 2022 and 2021 (21% each), 2019 (17,8%) and 2020 (12,6%). **Conclusion:** The data demonstrate that mortality due to soft tissue sarcoma in the metropolitan area of Belém disproportionately affects older adults, males, *pardos* ones and those with intermediate

levels of education. Additionally, the concentration of cases in larger municipalities, such as Belém and Ananindeua, highlights the urgent need to enhance early diagnosis efforts and ensure equitable access to timely and adequate oncological care. Therefore, these results provide a critical evidence base to inform public health policies and intervention strategies aimed at reducing mortality and improving outcomes for individuals affected by this aggressive cancer.

Keywords: Epidemiological profile; sarcoma; soft tissue.