

## **ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY RATES AND NUMBER OF HOSPITALIZATIONS IN WOMEN WITH PANCREATIC CANCER IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF BRAZIL**

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**Introduction:** Pancreatic cancer (PC) is often asymptomatic in its early stages, leading to frequent diagnoses at advanced stages and significantly compromising accurate staging and appropriate clinical management. Brazil registers approximately 10,980 new cases of pancreatic cancer annually, reflecting high morbidity and mortality associated with the aggressive nature of this adenocarcinoma and delayed treatment initiation. In this context, understanding the epidemiological foundations of this condition is essential.

**Objectives:** To analyze the number of hospitalizations and mortality rates of women with pancreatic cancer in the Northern Region of Brazil between 2020 and 2024.

**Methods:** This is an ecological, descriptive, retrospective, and quantitative study using secondary data from the Hospital Information System of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SIH/SUS), managed by the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS). Data on hospitalizations and mortality due to pancreatic cancer in women aged 20 years and older were collected for the period from 2020 to 2024 in the Northern Region of Brazil. The variables analyzed were region and age group.

**Results:** During the analyzed period, 1,169 hospitalizations of women aged 20 years and older with pancreatic cancer were recorded in the Northern Region of Brazil. Incidence and mortality rates were standardized per 100,000 inhabitants. The highest hospitalization incidence was observed in Rondônia (43), while the lowest rates were found in Amapá (8.44) and Roraima (8.5). Rondônia and Tocantins presented the highest mortality rates (9.5 and 6.5, respectively), whereas Amapá had the lowest rate (2.1). The age group with the highest number of hospitalizations was 60–69 years (30.45%), followed by 50–59 years (22.07%) and 70–79 years (20.1%). The highest mortality rates occurred among women aged ≥80 years (42.31%) and 70–79 years (36.17%).

**Conclusion:** Pancreatic cancer shows high lethality and a growing epidemiological burden among women in the Northern Region of Brazil, evidenced by substantial hospitalizations and elevated mortality, particularly in Rondônia and Tocantins. This scenario is partially driven by persistent modifiable risk factors, including diabetes

diabetes mellitus, smoking, and alcohol consumption. Disparities in morbidity and mortality reflect challenges in healthcare access and the absence of effective screening strategies, worsening clinical outcomes in the most affected areas. Advancing age is strongly associated with increased hospitalization and mortality, especially in individuals over 60 years, reinforcing the challenges of geriatric oncology care. Strengthening integrated multiprofessional actions to promote earlier diagnosis—even given the disease’s insidious presentation—is essential to improve prognosis and reduce lethality.

**Keywords:** Pancreatic cancer; epidemiology; women’s oncology