

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SARCOMA CASES IN THE STATE OF PARÁ (2014–2019)

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Introduction: Sarcomas are malignant neoplasms of mesenchymal origin, characterized by high heterogeneity and diagnostic complexity. In Brazil, there is a lack of specific data on these tumors, especially in the Northern Region, where records remain limited. **Objectives:** To describe the sociodemographic and clinical profile of patients diagnosed with sarcoma in the state of Pará between 2014 and 2019. **Methods:** This is an observational, descriptive, and retrospective study with a quantitative approach, based on the analysis of secondary data from the Population-Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) of Belém, managed by the National Cancer Institute (INCA). The study included 253 records of patients with a confirmed diagnosis of sarcoma, reported between 2014 and 2019. Sociodemographic information (sex, age group, race/skin color, and educational level) and clinical data (vital status and cause of death) were collected. All records were considered eligible regardless of the completeness of the fields. Data organization was carried out using Python software (version 3.11), with the Pandas library used for structuring databases and processing variables. **Results:** Among the reported cases of sarcoma in Pará between 2014 and 2019, males predominated (64.4% – 163 cases) compared to females (35.6% – 90 cases). The most affected age group was 20 to 39 years (107 cases: 89 men and 18 women). The 40 to 59 and 60 to 69 age groups presented 46 and 32 cases, respectively. In 45 records, age was not reported. Regarding race/skin color, most patients self-identified as "pardo" or mixed-race (120 cases: 79 men and 41 women). In 88 cases, no information was provided. The remaining cases were distributed among White (27), Black (14), Asian (3), and Indigenous (1) individuals. As for educational level, high school completion was most frequent, especially among men (50 cases), followed by lower secondary education (28) and primary education (19). Among women, there was greater variation: high school completion (20), primary education (18), and lower secondary education (11). Higher education (complete/incomplete) accounted for 21 cases, while 66 records lacked this information. By 2020, 53 patients had died (28 men and 25 women), 16 were alive (10 men and 6 women), and 141 had no recorded vital status. In 76 cases (45 men and 31 women), death was directly attributed to cancer; in the remaining cases, the cause was inconclusive, although clinical conditions suggested this possibility. **Conclusion:** The study revealed a predominance of sarcoma cases among young, male, and self-identified mixed-race patients but also highlighted a significant presence of female patients, particularly in more recent years. The high rate

of incomplete data, especially regarding education and vital status, underscores the urgent need to improve cancer record quality in the Northern Region, thereby strengthening surveillance of rare cancers and promoting equity in health actions.

Keywords: Neoplasms; Amazon Region; Epidemiology.