

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NUMBER OF HOSPITALIZATIONS DUE TO MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE STOMACH IN BRAZIL FROM 2019 TO 2024

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Introduction: Gastric cancer, or malignant neoplasm of the stomach, is a multifactorial disease with significant public health impact in Brazil, characterized by the uncontrolled growth of malignant cells in the stomach lining. Family history, poor diet, and infection by *Helicobacter pylori* are among the most associated risk factors. In Brazil, gastric cancer stands as one of the leading causes of hospitalizations and deaths, with the Southeast region showing the highest prevalence. **Objectives:** To describe the epidemiological profile of hospitalizations due to malignant neoplasm of the stomach in Brazil between 2019 and 2024, considering regional distribution, age group, sex, and ethnicity. **Methods:** This is a quantitative, descriptive, and retrospective study using secondary data obtained from the Department of Information and Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS), in the "hospital morbidity" section of the Unified Health System (SUS), concerning the disease malignant neoplasm of the stomach between 2019 and 2024. The collected data were analyzed according to the following variables: Region, Age Group, Ethnicity, and Sex. The data obtained were analyzed using Microsoft Office Excel 2019, which was used to organize the information and calculate the rates related to the variables studied. **Results:** Between 2019 and 2024, a total of 168,995 hospitalizations due to malignant neoplasm of the stomach were recorded in Brazil. The Southeast region reported the highest number of cases, with 68,954 records (40.8% of the total). However, the South region had the highest prevalence rate (24 cases per 100,000 inhabitants). The year 2024 registered the highest number of hospitalizations in the analyzed period, with 32,794 cases (19.4%). Regarding sex, there was a predominance of males, representing 107,925 of the affected individuals (63.8%). Concerning the age group variable, the highest incidence of hospitalizations occurred among individuals aged 60 to 69 years, with 57,701 hospitalizations (34.1%). In terms of ethnicity, the greatest occurrence was among mixed-race individuals, totaling 79,713 cases (47.1%), followed by white individuals, with 75,938 records (45%) of the total number. **Conclusion:** The study indicated that between 2019 and 2024, the Southeast

region led in absolute numbers of cases, although the South region had the highest prevalence rate. Furthermore, the data show a predominance among males, individuals aged 60 to 69 years, and mixed-race ethnicity. Due to limited data, which are underreported in certain regions of the country and because data are taken only from the public health system and may underestimate the real incidence of these diseases, more work on this topic is essential, in order to analyze annual trends or propose public health strategies for each region.

Keywords: Gastric cancer; epidemiology; hospitalizations; Brazil; public health.