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Epidemiology of male breast cancer in Brazil: An analysis of patients undergoing treatment in the public health system

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Objective: The objective of this study was to understand the epidemiological profile of breast cancer in men in Brazil, in order to improve care for these patients. **Methodology:** This study is an ecological, observational, cross-sectional analysis based on retrospective data from the publicly available National Oncology Database (DATASUS — SISCAN/Cancer Information System). The study utilized a National Tracking Database as the primary data source. Descriptive analyses of sociodemographic characteristics of patients, including the geographic region of diagnosis, and age range of affected men, were performed. The study also evaluated specific data regarding breast cancer, including clinical staging and types of treatment. The relationship between age group, staging, and treatment according to staging was also evaluated. **Results:** During the analyzed period of 2017–2021, a total of 4,327 cases of breast cancer in men were diagnosed and recorded in the system, representing 1.81% of all breast cancers registered during this period. The majority of cases were diagnosed in the Southeast region (41%), followed by the Northeast region (37%). In terms of age, the majority of patients were over 54 years (68.9%), with 19.1% of patients between 40 and 54 years, and 12% of all registered cases occurred in patients under 40 years. Clinical examination was used to diagnose 62.8% of men, while imaging examinations were used to diagnose 37.2%. Treatment options included chemotherapy (55.7%), surgical treatment (35.6%), and radiotherapy (8.7%). **Conclusion:** Breast cancer in men is a rare disease that should not be neglected. It is often diagnosed at more advanced stages, which leads to more invasive treatments. Men with known risk factors should be advised to seek medical attention as soon as they feel a palpable retroareolar mass to ensure a prompt and accurate diagnosis. It is important to raise awareness of this disease and encourage early detection and treatment to improve outcomes for men with breast cancer.

Keywords: breast cancer; epidemiology; men.