

Chapter 80

Clinical and epidemiological profile of cervical cancer in Piauí in the period from 2017 to 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

Cancer is the main public health problem in the world. The prevalence and incidence have been increasing over the years due to factors such as aging, changes in lifestyle (sedentary lifestyle, industrialized foods), and also due to greater contact with some risk factors brought about by urbanization. The Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS) exposes the data so that researchers can monitor and analyze actions for cancer control, in addition to guidelines for research related to the topic (BRAY et al., 2014).

Among the various types of cancer, cervical cancer (CCU) deserves to be highlighted. The incidence of CC in Brazil, based on the year 2020, was 16,7109 new cases (2020-INCA) and the number of deaths recorded was 6,596 (2019) -Atlas of Cancer Mortality (SIM). Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, it represents the third most prevalent malignant tumor in women (second only to breast cancer and colorectal cancer), being responsible for the fourth cause of death in women from cancer in Brazil (INCA- 2020).

The factors that can influence the appearance of CC are linked in most cases with the presence of infection by the human papillomavirus (HPV), this situation is due to its power to alter the cells present in the cervix. HPV has an average of 200 genotypes, which can be distributed in low-grade, which is non-oncogenic, and high-grade, which are oncogenic types. The subtypes that are most linked to CC are 17 and 18, resulting in about 70% of cervical cancers in the world (Reis & Piedade, 2019; Brazil, 2020; Da Silva et al., 2020).

CC is a slow-growing disease, and may not show symptoms at first. In more advanced cases, there may be vaginal bleeding during intercourse, and abnormal discharge, usually dark in color and with a fetid odor, in addition to causing bleeding and obstruction of the urinary and intestinal tracts. Therefore, as it is generally a silent disease in the early stages, the best method is prevention (GISMONDI et al., 2020).

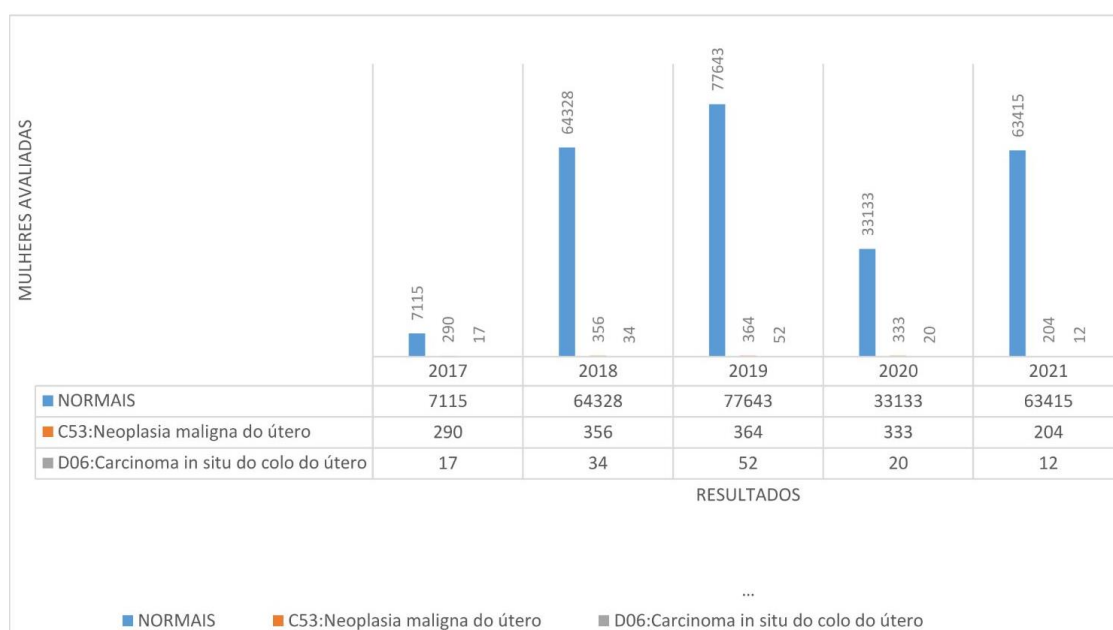
Social isolation has also repressed access to health, both due to changes in the execution of public policies and due to women's hesitation, taking into account the safety of seeking care, in most cases for fear of contracting COVID-19. The alarm is mainly due to the serious increase in maternal mortality in this period and the obstacle to access to health and sexual and reproductive rights, which are fundamental during pandemics (Moura et al., 2020).

In this sense, this study is based on the need to evaluate the “Clinical and epidemiological profile of cervical cancer in Piauí from 2017 to 2021”, the time interval that comprises the pandemic. For this reason, this work aims to analyze the increase in the number of CCU cases during the COVID-19 health crisis, as well as its consequences on women's health and public policies.

2 METHODOLOGY

This is a retrospective research, with a descriptive and quantitative approach to cases of cervical cancer in the state of Piauí, from 2017 to 2021. The search for data was carried out in the Datasus database via Tabnet. From this, data were extracted according to the prevalence by month and year, detailed diagnosis, and negative diagnosis of cervical cancer in Piauí.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Source: Ministério da Saúde/SVS – Sistema de Informações de Câncer (SISCAN).

1547 cases of malignant neoplasm of the cervix were found from 2017 to 2021 in Piauí. With carcinoma in situ, a type of cancer that is still non-invasive and curable, the result obtained represented 8% of malignant alterations. Comparing the number of negative tests in the same period, confirmed changes in the cervix totaled about 0.76% of the total screening, with a higher prevalence in the years 2018 and 2019, with 390 and 416 cases respectively.

Table 1: Number of cervical-vaginal cytopathological exams in women aged 25 to 64 years performed at SUS, Piauí, from 2017 to 2021.

State	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Piauí	102.061	124.961	136.190	75.398	128.433

Source: Ministério da Saúde. Sistema de Informações Ambulatoriais do SUS (SIA/SUS). Nota: Quantidade aprovada, por local de residência. Procedimento: Exame Citopatológico Cérvico-Vaginal/Microflora (0203010019), Exame Citopatológico Cérvico Vaginal/Microflora-Rastreamento (0203010086).

As noted in the table above, from 2017 to 2019 there was an increase in the number of cervical-vaginal cytopathological exams in women aged 25 to 64 performed at SUS, in the state of Piauí, with a significant drop in the year 2020, representing a reduction of 55.36%, which corroborates what was observed in the number of cases of cervical cancer in the same period, corresponds to the year in which the COVID-19 pandemic reached all of Brazil.

It is possible to notice that the number of reports doubled in 2021 when compared to the last year that precedes it, this fact may be related to the implementation of the new financing model of Primary Care - Programa Previne Brasil - which has as one of its indicators the coverage of the Pap smear test which encouraged, in the health teams, the recruitment of women from the registered areas so that they carry out the test periodically.

4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

When observing the years 2018 and 2019 of the present study, it is noted that there was a higher prevalence in the rates of cases of cervical cancer, with 390 and 416 cases respectively. In this sense, the Datasus database via Tabnet is a notable health indicator and reflects the state of public health by month, year, detailed diagnosis, and negative diagnosis of cervical cancer in Piauí, in the study period from 2017 to 2019.

In this sense, based on this analysis of epidemiological prevalence, it is observed that actions to prevent cervical cancer and the active search for carrying out the preventive examination, when properly performed, seeking to reach the majority of women included in the screening recommendations, act similarly. an efficient way to diagnose early cancers, improving the patient's prognosis. However, the change of focus in the face of an unusual health scenario, such as the health crisis of COVID-19, may predispose to underreporting, injuries, and worse prognosis in terms of women's health.

Regarding the limitations faced in the development of this scientific production, we can list the underreporting characteristic of the pandemic period, represented by the Ministry of Health table, which

made screening for cervical cancer difficult. In addition, the numbers of cases of the disease in Piauí are still alarming.

It is recommended that more studies involving this theme be carried out, bringing primary data that make it possible to correlate with the data made available by more regions and states of the federation so that they are added to these studies so that their results can point to the need to improve according to the difficulties and limitations of each region and the state of Brazil.