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Temporal analysis and care demand of female hospitalizations due to headache crises in the state of Sergipe (2019-2025)

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Introduction
Headaches are among the most prevalent neurological disorders globally, associated with significant functional disability, reduced quality of life and high socioeconomic impact. They present related etiologies such as stress, work overload and analgesic overuse, predominantly affecting women of childbearing age. This scenario is aggravated by underdiagnosis and the consequent chronic pain development.

Objective
To analyze the epidemiological profile of hospitalizations for headache in women in the state of Sergipe between 2019 and 2025.

Methods
Epidemiological, retrospective and descriptive, time series study, based on secondary data from DATASUS (2019-2025) on hospitalizations for headache (ICD-10 G43 and G44) in women in Sergipe. The variables were evaluated: year of hospitalization, nature of care, age group and total amount spent. Statistical analysis was performed using the Chi-square, linear correlation and paired Wilcoxon tests, adopting a significance level of $p < 0.05$.

Results
In the period from 2019 to 2025, the Northeast region recorded 14,532 hospitalizations for headache in women, of which the state of Sergipe accounted for 1.42% (n=207). Comparison of data from Sergipe with the male group (n=117) revealed a statistically significant association between sex and the volume of hospitalizations (X^2=18.927; p<0.0001), alongside a progressive and consistent increase in female cases throughout the historical series studied (r=0.882; p=0.0086), with a peak prevalence rate of 3.95 in 2024, which occurred proportionally and parallel between both sexes (X^2=2.810; p=0.8323). Regarding the nature of care, there was homogeneity between genders (X^2=1.222; p=0.2690), with 206 urgent cases and 1 elective case. In relation to the age profile, the range of 30 to 39 years was the most affected in women (n=48, prevalence 251.78) due to the statistically significant chronological distribution between the sexes (X^2=.453; p=0.0397). Regarding care demand, 68.87% of the amount used comes from the female group, with an mean cost per hospitalization (R$ 325.90) higher than that of men (R$ 260.55) (p=0.0156).

Conclusion
Hospitalizations for headaches in Sergipe present a real and linear temporal escalation in females, with marked selectivity for fertile and productive age (30 to 39 years). Women are consolidated as the main group facing the public system's headache care demands, generating higher and more persistent hospital costs. There is an urgent need for public policies aimed at outpatient and preventive management of headaches aimed at women's health, with the aim of reducing the care burden and economic impact in the state of Sergipe.

Keywords:
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