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Epidemiological profile and economic impact of hospitalizations for migraine and other cephalic pain syndromes in the Brazilian Unified Health System

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Introduction
Migraine is one of the most prevalent primary headache disorders in Brazil and is associated with disability, reduced quality of life, and loss of productivity. Severe cases may require hospitalization and generate substantial costs for the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS). Therefore, understanding the profile of hospitalizations is essential, as it allows the identification of the groups most affected by the disease and supports the planning of public health policies and prevention strategies.

Objective
To analyze the epidemiological profile and the economic impact of hospitalizations due to migraine and other cephalic pain syndromes in the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) from 2015 to 2025.

Methods
Ecological time-series study using data from DATASUS/SIH-SUS. Hospitalizations and expenditures related to "Migraine and Other Cephalic Pain Syndromes" (ICD-10, Chapter VI) were analyzed between 2015 and 2025. Variables included number of hospitalizations, total and average costs, geographic region, and age group.

Results
In 2015, 2020, and 2025, a total of 8,159, 8,778, and 13,335 hospitalizations due to migraine and other cephalic pain syndromes were recorded in SUS, respectively, representing a 63.4% increase over the study period. The Southeast region accounted for the highest absolute number of hospitalizations, totaling 10,402 cases during the period, followed by the Northeast (7,894) and South (7,863) regions, while the North region showed the highest growth rate (204.1%). Hospital expenditures increased by 152.3% between 2015 and 2025. The Northeast region had the highest cumulative expenditure, whereas the North region showed the greatest increase in hospital costs (791.8%). Regarding age groups, hospitalizations were more concentrated among adults aged 20–49 years, particularly those aged 30–39 years (5,567 hospitalizations), and were least frequent among children under 5 years of age. A progressive increase in hospitalizations was also observed across most age groups, especially among individuals aged 60 years or older. Female patients predominated, accounting for 67.0% of all hospitalizations.

Conclusion
Migraine-related hospitalizations and expenditures increased substantially in SUS between 2015 and 2025. Young and middle-aged adults accounted for most hospitalizations. Regional disparities were also observed, with the North region standing out in terms of growth in both hospitalizations and expenditures. These findings highlight migraine as an important public health issue and reinforce the need for strategies aimed at early diagnosis, appropriate follow-up, and reduction of hospitalizations, contributing to the optimization of SUS resources.

Keywords:
Migraine
Hospitalization
Epidemiology
Hospital costs

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