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Epidemiological profile of hospitalizations and mortality due to migraine among young women in northeastern Brazil between 2014 and 2024

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Introduction

Migraine is one of the most prevalent neurological disorders worldwide and disproportionately affects women of reproductive age, significantly impacting quality of life, productivity, and healthcare systems. Although migraine-related hospitalizations are generally associated with low mortality, severe episodes may require inpatient care and generate substantial healthcare burden. In Brazil, regional epidemiological data regarding hospitalizations and mortality due to migraine among women remain limited, especially in the Northeast region. Therefore, understanding the temporal trends and hospital outcomes associated with migraine is essential for improving healthcare planning and preventive strategies.

Objective

To analyze the epidemiological profile of hospitalizations and mortality due to migraine among women aged 15 to 49 years in Northeastern Brazil from 2014 to 2024.

Methods

This is an ecological, retrospective, and descriptive study conducted using secondary data obtained from the Hospital Information System of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SIH/SUS), available through the DATASUS platform. Hospitalizations due to migraine (ICD-10: G43) among women aged 15 to 49 years living in Northeastern Brazil were analyzed between 2014 and 2024. The evaluated variables included number of hospitalizations, number of deaths, and in-hospital mortality rate. Data were organized and descriptively analyzed according to the year of care.

Results

Between 2014 and 2024, a total of 12,832 hospitalizations due to migraine were recorded among women aged 15 to 49 years in Northeastern Brazil. A progressive increase in hospitalizations was observed between 2014 and 2019, rising from 853 to 1,435 cases. In 2020, there was a significant reduction to 990 hospitalizations, followed by a gradual increase in subsequent years, reaching 1,365 cases in 2023 and 1,280 in 2024. During the same period, 91 deaths due to migraine were recorded. The in-hospital mortality rate remained globally low throughout the historical series, ranging from 0.40 in 2020 to 1.25 in 2023. The highest number of deaths was also observed in 2023, with 17 recorded cases.

Conclusion

It was concluded that migraine showed an increasing impact on hospitalizations among women of reproductive age in Northeastern Brazil throughout the analyzed historical series, despite the overall low mortality observed. The reduction in hospitalizations in 2020, followed by a subsequent increase in later years, suggests a possible influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to healthcare services. These findings reinforce the relevance of migraine as a public health issue and highlight the need for strategies focused on early diagnosis, outpatient follow-up, and appropriate disease management.

Keywords:
Migraine
Mortality
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