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Costs of physical therapy procedures for migraine in the SUS: temporal analysis of the state of Pernambuco (2015–2025)

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Introduction
Migraine is a disabling neurological condition with high prevalence and significant socioeconomic impact, reflected by the increasing demand for healthcare and rehabilitation services.

Objective
To quantify annual expenditures on physical therapy procedures for migraine within the Unified Health System (SUS) and to describe the demographic profile from 2015 to 2025 in the state of Pernambuco and its macro-regions.

Methods
A cross-sectional, descriptive, and quantitative study was conducted using DATASUS/SIA. Data on sex, age group, primary ICD code, and procedure type were extracted. Descriptive analysis was performed, with monetary correction of costs using the Broad National Consumer Price Index (IPCA), based on December 2025. Simple linear regression was applied with year as the independent variable and the IPCA-adjusted annual expenditure as the dependent variable. Standardized residuals were calculated to identify atypical years.

Results
A total of 1,265 outpatient care records from the state of Pernambuco were analyzed. Total expenditures on physical therapy procedures for migraine in the SUS in the state of Pernambuco between 2015 and 2025 amounted to R$ 5,535.22. Of this total, R$ 4,046.89 was concentrated in the year 2022, substantially above the mean annual expenditure recorded for the state during the analyzed period (R$ 502.92). Expenditures were predominantly concentrated among females (88.94%), in the 18–59 age group (82.1%), and under ICD G43.9, "migraine, unspecified" (40.71%). The most prevalent procedure type was type 22 (68.84%), corresponding to "physical therapy care for patients with neuro-kinetic-functional disorders with complications." Regarding macro-regions, the Agreste region accounted for the largest share of state expenditures (62.42%), followed by the Metropolitan region (30.68%) and the Sertão region (6.90%). Linear regression identified no significant temporal trend in expenditures over the period (=82.47; F(1,9)=0.523; p=0.488; R^2=0.055), indicating the absence of linear growth. The year 2022 was identified as an isolated outlier (ZRE=2.74).

Conclusion
Outpatient physical therapy care related to migraine in the SUS in Pernambuco was predominantly concentrated among adult women, with resource concentration in the Agreste macro-region. The high frequency of ICD G43.9 suggests limitations in the diagnostic specification of migraine subtypes, which may hinder a more precise characterization of the clinical profile of users. These findings reinforce the importance of improving the quality of health records, as well as of epidemiological monitoring and the planning of care strategies and resource allocation for individuals with migraine in the public health system.

Keywords:
Physical therapy modalities
Migraine disorders
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Costs and cost analysis

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