



Epidemiological profile of meningitis in Brazil, according to data from Datasus

Jessica Gotardo Brandalise

Lutheran University of Brazil, Canoas, Rio Grande do Sul
E-mail: jessicabrandalise@rede.ulbra.br

Maria Eduarda Leão

Lutheran University of Brazil, Canoas, Rio Grande do Sul
E-mail: m.leao@rede.ulbra.br

Marlon Severo dos Santos

Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas-RS
E-mail: marlon.severo@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

In Brazil, meningitis is considered an endemic disease, which can lead to occasional outbreaks or epidemics. Meningitis is an inflammatory process of the meninges, it can be caused by infectious agents, and viral meningitis is the most relevant for public health. There is currently a large increase in meningitis cases in Brazil, especially in the state of São Paulo, where there was an increase of 1,577 cases in 2023, compared to 2022. The objective is to analyze the prevalence of meningitis in Brazil by comparing the years 2021 and 2023, and the demographic profile of the patients.

Keywords: Meningitis, Mortality, Vaccines.

1 INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, meningitis is considered an endemic disease, which can lead to occasional outbreaks or epidemics. Meningitis is an inflammatory process of the meninges, it can be caused by infectious agents, and viral meningitis is the most relevant for public health. There is currently a large increase in meningitis cases in Brazil, especially in the state of São Paulo, where there was an increase of 1,577 cases in 2023, compared to 2022. The objective is to analyze the prevalence of meningitis in Brazil by comparing the years 2021 and 2023, and the demographic profile of the patients.

This is a quantitative, epidemiological study of a descriptive-analytical nature, developed based on data from the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS) and the Epidemiological Bulletin of the Secretariat of Health Surveillance; A total of 3,935 new cases were collected from 2021 to 2023. The variables analyzed were: gender, age and cause of death. According to the data collected, the highest prevalence of meningitis is in males: 2,443 cases. When analyzing the data related to age, it can be seen that the number of new cases between 2021 and 2023 totaled 4,241. The age groups analyzed were: 0-14 years with a total of 2,133 cases, 15-59 years with 1,595 cases, while from 60-80+ years there were a total of 451 cases.



As for the causes of death, in the same period, there was an increase of 382 deaths. It should be noted that the information on meningitis in Brazil, according to data from DataSUS, may mean that there has been an increase in notifications of the disease and not necessarily a spike in the number of cases. Such data are of paramount importance for the development of public health policies through the SUS, in order to alert the population to the severity of the disease, as well as for vaccination and treatment of meningitis.



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