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Brain Diseases: Epidemiological Survey of the Neurological Care in Sergipe

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Epidemiology deals with any event related to the health or disease of the population. Diseases of the Nervous System are a group of inherited or acquired diseases, including diseases such as Headache, Depression, Parkinson's Disease, among others. In the State of Sergipe, the University Hospital (UH) is a reference in the Unified Health System (SUS) for medium and high complexity care in the different specialties, among them, Neurology. **Objective:** Analyze the epidemiological profile of patients treated at the UH Neurology outpatient clinic during the period from January 2003 to January 2017. **Methods:** This epidemiological study was an analytical, retrospective and cross-sectional design and the sample was constituted by the medical records of patients attended at the outpatient clinic and the percentage of the different neurological diseases was estimated. **Results and Discussion:** A total of 1,382 medical records were randomly collected, where 279 of these were excluded because they did not have data to enable the survey, and information was collected from 1,103 medical records. It was observed that the most prevalent diseases were headache (38%), chronic degenerative diseases (18.3%), epilepsy (8.0%), traumatic brain injury (2.2%) and other disorders (28.9%). According to the specific diagnosis, headache was the most frequent cause of the visits. Epidemiological data point to the relevance of the problem in view of the impacts that this disease causes in the life of the affected population. Chronic Degenerative Diseases were the second most prevalent cause, probably due to the process of demographic transition that the country is experiencing and the increase in the number of chronic diseases in the population. **Conclusion:** The research allowed characterizing the population served in the reference service in the State. In this way, it was possible to list the main demands and it is possible to elaborate public policies, specific and effective interventions to improve the assistance provided to this population.

Keywords: Epidemiology; Nervous System Diseases; Public health.

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