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Not So Rare! Epidemiological Study of Amiotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Sergipe

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease, characterized by selective degeneration and death of upper and lower motoneurons in the cortex, brain stem and spinal cord. The annual incidence described in the literature is 2 per 100,000 people in the world. The literature on the epidemiology of ALS is large, but there is a geographical limitation. Sergipe State has no epidemiological data on ALS. Objective: The objective of this study was to carry out an epidemiological analysis of the visits at the University Hospital of Sergipe (HU) from January 2003 to January 2016. Methodology: The study was performed through a retrospective analysis of 819 patients' records attended at the Neurology outpatient clinic. Results and Discussion: Thirteen cases of ALS were detected, representing an incidence of 1.5% and a prevalence of 83.3% in the studied episodes. In these cases, 67% of the patients are male and 33% are female. In addition, 83.4% of the patients reside in the interior and 16.6% of them in the capital. The mean age at onset of symptoms was 50.5 years and the mean time to disease progression was 4.6 years. The ALS was present in 83.4% of the cases in the sporadic form and 16.6% in the familial form. It was possible to observe that the disease affects mainly people over 50 years of age, with a higher incidence and prevalence for males and it was possible to notice that the epidemiological rates of the disease are compatible with studies already exposed in the literature. Conclusion: In this way,, epidemiological characterization turn possible to create alternatives for intervention, treatments and proposals in the health area that aim to meet the demands of this population in order to minimize the limitations, thus improving the quality of life of these individuals.

Keywords: Neurodegenerative Diseases; Nervous System Diseases; Neurology

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