Neurodegenerative Diseases: Epidemiological Survey in Sergipe University Hospital

Santos, E.L[1]; Silva, J.P.R[2]; Santiago Junior, J.B[3]; Mendonça, D.M.F[4]

[1]Biological Sciences Student, UFS, [2]Physiotherapy student, UFS; [3]Biological Sciences Student, UFS; 4Professor, Researcher at the Bioscience Department, UFS.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Epidemiology is the study of factors that determine the frequency and distribution of diseases in human collectivities. Neurodegenerative diseases compose a very heterogeneous group of diseases, caused by distinct mechanisms and characterized by the neuronal degeneration in different regions of the Nervous System. Objective: The objective of this study was to perform a survey on the number of cases of neurodegenerative diseases in the Sergipe University Hospital (HU). Methodology: In this study, an analytic epidemiology study, with a cross-sectional design, we analyzed the epidemiological profile of patients's medical appointments at HU Neurology Clinic, from January 2003 to January 2016. The research was based on the analysis of patient medical records. These were selected in fixed percentages, per year, at random sampling. Descriptive statistics were performed and the percentage values of the analyzed data were reported. Results and Discussion: A total of 819 medical records were analyzed, of which 166 were cases of neurodegenerative diseases, representing an incidence of 20.2% in the studied episodes. In these cases, 1.2% was patients with Wilson's Disease, 7.8% with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, 9% with Alzheimer's Disease and 82% with Parkinson's Disease (PD). In this study, it was possible to observe that there is a high percentage of people in the HU with neurodegenerative diseases, mainly PD. In the national literature, no articles were found that presented results of epidemiological studies in PD. It is estimated that this disease affects about 1% of the world's population over 65 years old, representing up to 2/3 of patients attending major movement disorders centers around the world. Conclusion: The results of this work contribute to the determination of the profile of care in HU, providing greater clarity for the planning and replanning of actions at all levels of health care.

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