



The Brazilian Ministry of Health's New Guidelines for Breast Cancer Early Detection: Methods of Development and Challenges for Implementation

Arn Migowski¹; Paulo Nadanovsky^{2,3}; Ronaldo Corrêa Ferreira da Silva¹; Maria Beatriz Kneipp Dias¹; Airton Tetelborn Stein^{4,5,6}; Camila Belo Tavares Ferreira¹; Denise Rangel Sant'Ana¹; Daniele Masterson Tavares Pereira⁷; Laura dos Santos Boeira⁸; Aline Silveira Silva⁹; Patrícia Sampaio Chueiri¹

1- Instituto Nacional de Câncer (INCA), 2 - Instituto de Medicina Social (IMS), 3 - Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública Sérgio Arouca (ENSP), 4 - Grupo Hospitalar Conceição (GHC)
5 - Universidade Luterana do Brasil (ULBRA), 6 - Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (UFSCPA)
7 - Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), 8 - Departamento de Atenção Especializada e Temática (DAET), 9 - Departamento de Gestão e Incorporação de Tecnologias em Saúde (DGITS)
e-mail: arn.santos@inca.gov.br

BACKGROUND

The 2004 Brazilian Ministry of Health's Guideline for early detection of breast cancer was based on a consensus document elaborated by a group of experts. Since then, the debate about the potential harms and benefits of this intervention has grown and calls for guidelines to rely more on evidence and less on experts' opinion.

OBJECTIVE

To present the methods applied by the panel that developed the 2015 guidelines and the challenges for their implementation.

METHODS

A steering group, with members of Ministry of Health and universities, defined the methods, drafted the scope, and recruited a multidisciplinary group of experts to refine the PICOS questions, review the literature and synthesize the existing evidence. The GRADE system was used to prepare the summary of evidences and to make recommendations, which were based on the balance between harms and possible benefits of the interventions.

RESULTS

Fifteen defined questions were identified and ten systematic reviews were carried out. Recommendations were made for managers, health professionals and patients. Prior to the publication of the guidelines, a conceptual presentation was held in the Federal Senate simultaneously with live television broadcast. A draft version of the guideline was submitted to public consultation during one month open to contributions from all stakeholders. The studies submitted in the public consultation were assessed with the same predefined eligibility criteria used in the systematic reviews. The strategies of dissemination planned for 2015 are oral presentations in three key national scientific congresses, a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the barriers to implementation, publication of a book with the whole guideline, an executive summary, an article in a major newspaper and a booklet in plain language for general population.

DISCUSSION

There are controversies, especially from advocacy groups, regarding the new recommendations on mammography screening, with a mass-misleading information to the public and health' professionals. This fact together with the wideness and diversity of the country poses a great challenge to the implementation.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GUIDELINE DEVELOPERS/USERS

This is the first Brazilian Ministry of Health's Guideline based on Systematic Reviews and on the use of the GRADE System, establishing new standards for guidelines development in the country.

Keywords: Evidence-Based Guidelines; Breast Cancer Screening; GRADE System; National Health System



Ministério da Saúde

