

BRAZILIAN INDIGENOUS POPULATION UNDER CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY: A FOUR-YEAR PROFILE

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BACKGROUND

International debates highlight the need to reduce health disparities between indigenous peoples and other populations. According to the 2010 census there are 817,963 indigenous people living in Brazil, of which 502,783 in indigenous lands and 315,180 in urban areas¹. Epidemiological data and information on cancer treatment in this population are lacking².

OBJECTIVE

To characterize the profile of Brazilian indigenous population under chemotherapy for cancer treatment, from 2014 to 2017.

METHOD

An ecological study was carried out. The study population consisted of indigenous people with a principal diagnosis of cancer. All chemotherapy procedures financed by Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) and performed in the public and SUS-affiliated private health services facilities, from January 2014 to December 2017, were included. The data source was the 'Authorization for High-Complexity Procedures in Oncology' (APAC/Onco) registers, harbored in SUS´ Ambulatory Care Information System (SIA-SUS). Case identification was performed through selection from the 'race/color' field of APAC/Onco. To characterize the profile the following information was collected: type of APAC, sex, age, value attributed to APAC, Brazilian region where chemotherapy was performed and types of cancer. Variables were descriptively analysed through time. All the information, software packages, and data used in the study are open-access.

RESULTS

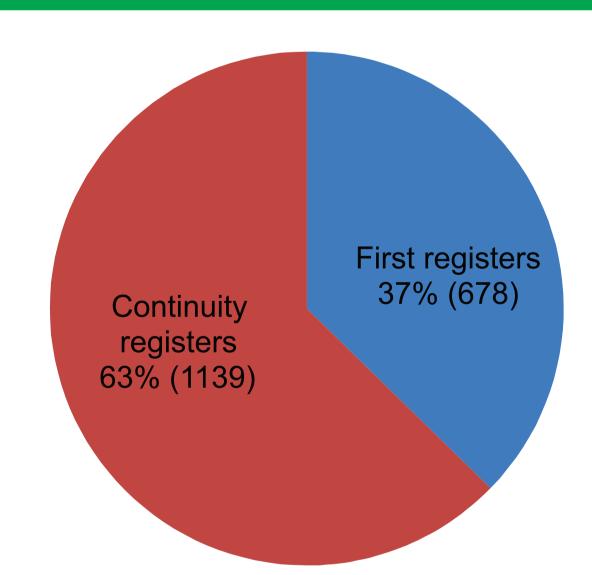
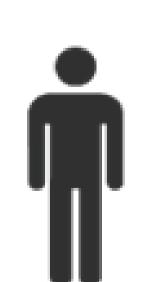


Figure 1. APACs by type

45% Male

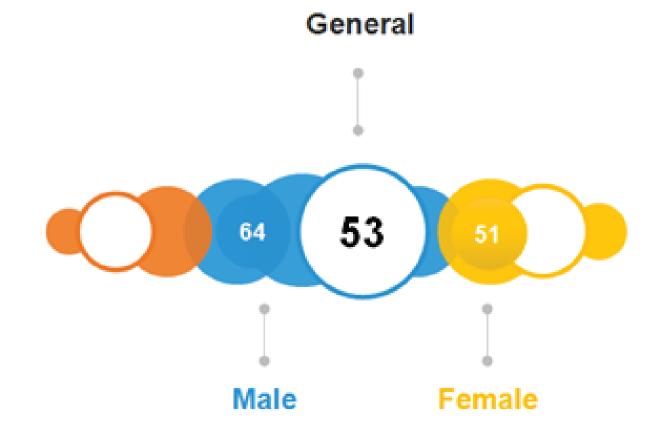




55% Female

Figure 2. APACs - First registers by gender.





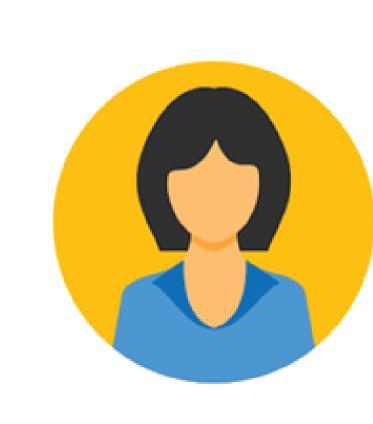


Figure 3. Median age (in years), considering first registers.



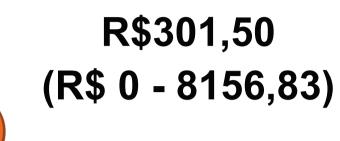




Figure 4. Median APAC value

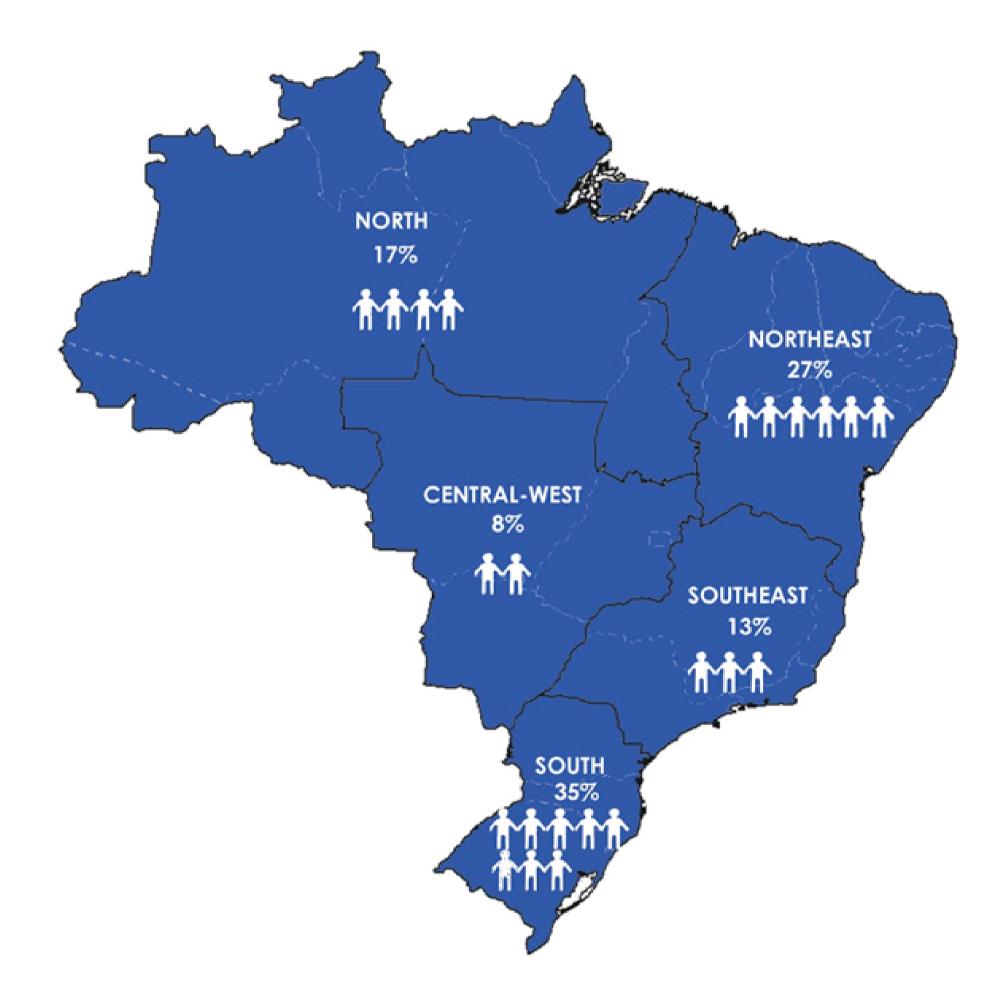


Figure 5. APACs by country region

Table 1. Most incident types of cancer

Type of cancer	Number of cases
Malignant breast neoplasm	170
malignant prostate neoplasm	116
chronic myeloid leukemia	77
malignant cervix neoplasm	49
acute lymphoblastic leukemia	37
Others	229

CONCLUSION

In the period, an increase was observed in the number of Brazilian indigenous people under chemotherapy for cancer treatment and a different profile in cancer epidemiology, when compared to non indigenous population, emerged.

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KEYWORDS: Indigenous Population; Chemotherapy; Cancer

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