

perceptions of their illnesses, offering a trustworthy means to assess these vital cognitive representations in clinical practice.

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Others

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Understanding the Occurrence of Psychiatric Disorders in Epilepsy in Brazil: An Epidemiological Investigation

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Introduction: Epilepsy is one of the most common serious brain illness, with symptoms influenced by multiple risk factors and a strong genetic predisposition, rather than having a single expression and cause¹. Neuropsychiatric symptoms in epilepsy can encompass manifestations such as mood alterations, anxiety, sleep disturbances, psychosis, and behavioral disorders. While the motor and sensory manifestations of epileptic seizures are widely recognized, neuropsychiatric symptoms accompanying epilepsy are

often underestimated. Therefore, it is essential to understand the most prevalent epidemiological profile of these patients to improve the diagnosis and management of these symptoms.

Objectives: Our goal was to evaluate the neuropsychiatric behavior of epilepsy patients in Brazilian over the past 3 years through hospitalization data in order to outline an epidemiological and behavioral profile.

Methods: A cross-sectional, descriptive, retrospective, and quantitative study was conducted on hospitalizations of individuals simultaneously diagnosed with epilepsy, schizotypal and delusional disorders, and mood disorders in all five regions of Brazil (South, Southeast, Midwest, North, and Northeast) between February 2020 and December 2022. Data from January 2020 were not available. The data used were collected through the Department of Health Informatics of the Brazilian Unified Health System (DATASUS) in the “Hospital Information System of SUS” section, gathering information regarding the nature of care, age range, gender, and ethnicity of the patients.

Results: The analysis covers the years 2020 to 2022, totaling 503,045 hospitalizations. In 2022, the highest number of cases occurred ($\approx 37.55\%$), followed by 2021 ($\approx 33.62\%$) and 2020 ($\approx 28.81\%$). Urgent hospitalizations represented $\approx 90.85\%$ of the total. The most affected age group was 30 to 39 years old ($\approx 18.30\%$). Men were more affected than women ($\approx 52.03\%$ and $\approx 47.96\%$, respectively), and Caucasians accounted for $\approx 36.07\%$ of the hospitalizations. The average length of stay was 19.1 days, and the mortality rate was 1.4%.

Conclusions: Thus, there is a gradual and annual increase in the number of hospitalizations during the observed period. While there is a minimal disparity between the affected genders, it is evident that the profile of male, caucasian, and adult patients is the most prevalent. Moreover, the predominantly urgent nature of hospitalizations points to an alarming scenario regarding this issue. From the analysis of the data obtained in the study, there is a clear need for interventions capable of reducing the prevalence of hospitalizations for neuropsychiatric symptoms in epilepsy patients in Brazil.

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