

Scientific Evidence Related to the Sociodemographic and Clinical Characterization of Cancer Patients: An Integrative Review

Evidências Científicas Relacionadas à Caracterização Sociodemográfica e Clínicas dos Pacientes Oncológicos: Uma Revisão Integrativa

Evidencia Científica Relacionada con las Características Sociodemográficas y Clínicas de los Pacientes Con Cáncer: Una Revisión Integradora

RESUMO

Objetivo: Analisar as evidências científicas que abordam a caracterização sociodemográfica e clínica de pacientes oncológicos. **Método:** Trata-se de uma revisão integrativa da literatura, realizada nas bases de dados SCIELO e BDENF. Foram incluídos artigos publicados no período de 2018 a 2023, disponíveis na íntegra. A estratégia de busca foi elaborada a partir do acrônimo PICo. Após a aplicação dos critérios de elegibilidade, os dados foram extraídos por meio de instrumento validado. **Resultados:** Foram identificados 26.312 artigos, dos quais 1.242 foram selecionados para leitura dos resumos e 33 para leitura na íntegra, resultando em 28 artigos elegíveis para o estudo. A amostra final foi composta por 28 estudos. **Conclusão:** Compreender as características desses pacientes é essencial para a atuação da equipe multiprofissional, favorecendo o planejamento de ações mais efetivas e adequadas. Esse conhecimento pode subsidiar a implementação de estratégias de promoção da saúde, prevenção de agravos, diagnóstico precoce, educação em saúde e tratamento oportuno, contribuindo para uma atenção integral ao indivíduo.

DESCRIPTORES: Câncer; Oncologia; Neoplasias; Perfil Sociodemográfico; Saúde pública.

ABSTRACT

Objective: To analyze the scientific evidence addressing the sociodemographic and clinical characterization of cancer patients. **Method:** This is an integrative literature review, conducted in the SCIELO and BDENF databases. Articles published between 2018 and 2023, available in full text, were included. The search strategy was developed using the PICo acronym. After applying the eligibility criteria, data were extracted using a validated instrument. **Results:** 26,312 articles were identified, of which 1,242 were selected for abstract reading and 33 for full text reading, resulting in 28 eligible articles for the study. The final sample consisted of 28 studies. **Conclusion:** Understanding the characteristics of these patients is essential for the work of the multidisciplinary team, favoring the planning of more effective and appropriate actions. This knowledge can support the implementation of strategies for health promotion, disease prevention, early diagnosis, health education, and timely treatment, contributing to comprehensive care for the individual.

DESCRIPTORS: Cancer; Oncology; Neoplasms; Sociodemographic Profile; Public Health.

RESUMEN:

Objetivo: Analizar la evidencia científica sobre la caracterización sociodemográfica y clínica de pacientes con cáncer. **Método:** Se realizó una revisión bibliográfica integradora en las bases de datos SCIELO y BDENF. Se incluyeron artículos publicados entre 2018 y 2023, disponibles en texto completo. La estrategia de búsqueda se desarrolló utilizando el acrónimo PICo. Tras aplicar los criterios de elegibilidad, se extrajeron los datos mediante un instrumento validado. **Resultados:** Se identificaron 26.312 artículos, de los cuales 1.242 se seleccionaron para la lectura del resumen y 33 para la lectura del texto completo, resultando en 28 artículos elegibles para el estudio. La muestra final consistió en 28 estudios. **Conclusión:** Comprender las características de estos pacientes es fundamental para el trabajo del equipo multidisciplinario, favoreciendo la planificación de acciones más efectivas y apropiadas. Este conocimiento puede respaldar la implementación de estrategias de promoción de la salud, prevención de enfermedades, diagnóstico precoz, educación para la salud y tratamiento oportuno, contribuyendo a una atención integral del individuo.

DESCRIPTORES: Cáncer; Oncología; Neoplasias; Perfil sociodemográfico; Salud pública.

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INTRODUCTION

National estimates indicate higher morbidity and mortality rates among men, especially in the 20–59 age group, compared to women of the same age. This scenario highlights challenges related to prevention and health promotion, contributing to the insufficient identification of this population's vulnerabilities and needs.¹

In the 2018–2019 biennium, an increase in incidence, mortality, and morbidity among the cancer popula-

tion was estimated, highlighting the importance of assessing the epidemiological profile of these patients. Such knowledge supports investments in research and the development of initiatives for health promotion, prevention, and cancer care.²

The importance of identifying sociodemographic and clinical characteristics lies in planning more proactive measures for individualized care, as well as in formulating public policies to prevent delayed diagnosis and ensure timely, appropriate treatment—which contributes to a bet-

ter prognosis and improves patients' well-being.³

In the current landscape, marked by global demographic shifts and population aging, changes are observed in the epidemiological profile and distribution of the main types of cancer. Studying the epidemiology of the disease across different regions of Brazil is essential for understanding its multifactorial nature, given the variability in risk factors and socioeconomic conditions that influence the epidemiological profile of each region of the country.³

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Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. For the current three-year period, an increase in the number of diagnoses is expected, with an estimated total of over 20 million new cases, unless control strategies—such as public health initiatives and public policies—are implemented.⁴

Many types of cancer can be prevented, or their morbidity and mortality reduced, through preventive measures and early diagnosis. However, cancer still poses a major challenge to public health, especially in developing countries, which have higher mortality rates compared to developed countries due to limited access to health services and timely diagnosis. Given this scenario, information on the epidemiological, clinical, and care profiles of cancer patients is essential to inform health management and the development of interventions tailored to the population's needs.⁴

In light of the above, the present study aims to analyze the scientific evidence addressing the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of cancer patients.

METHOD

This is a descriptive study conducted through an integrative literature review, a method that enables systematic and analytical organization through the summary of the knowledge derived from the results of the studies identified.⁵ In the first phase, the study's guiding question was formulated based on the PICO strategy for scientific writing.⁶ Accordingly, the following were considered: P: cancer patients; I: to characterize patients sociodemographically and clinically; C: to compare these characteristics with those of other locations; O: to assist in prevention and in providing the necessary care to minimize the risk of developing cancer through early diagnosis and treatment (Table 1). Based on the PICO framework,

the research question was formulated as follows: What is the scientific evidence regarding the sociodemo-

graphic and clinical characteristics of cancer patients?

Table 1 - PICO strategy for formulating a question for an integrative review, Cáceres, Mato Grosso, Brazil (2023).

Acronym	Definition	Description
P	Population, patient, or problem	Cancer patients.
I	Intervention or indicator	To characterize patients in terms of sociodemographic and clinical factors.
C	Comparison or control	Comparison with characterizations from other locations.
O	Outcomes (Results)	To assist in prevention and provide the necessary care to minimize the risk of developing cancer through early diagnosis and treatment.

In the second stage, two independent reviewers organized the search strategy using the search terms “cancer,” “sociodemographic factors,” and “patients” in the *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SCIELO) and *Nursing Database* (BDENF). It is worth noting that the Boolean operators “AND” and “OR” were used to combine the search terms. The search strategy used in both databases was: Cancer AND “Sociodemographic Factors” OR patients.

In the third stage, the search was narrowed down using the following inclusion criteria: articles published online, available in full and free of charge, from 2018 to 2023, in Portuguese and English.

In the fourth stage, the titles and abstracts were rigorously analyzed, and paid articles, duplicates, theses, dissertations, review studies, and research studies that did not present data related to the research question were excluded.

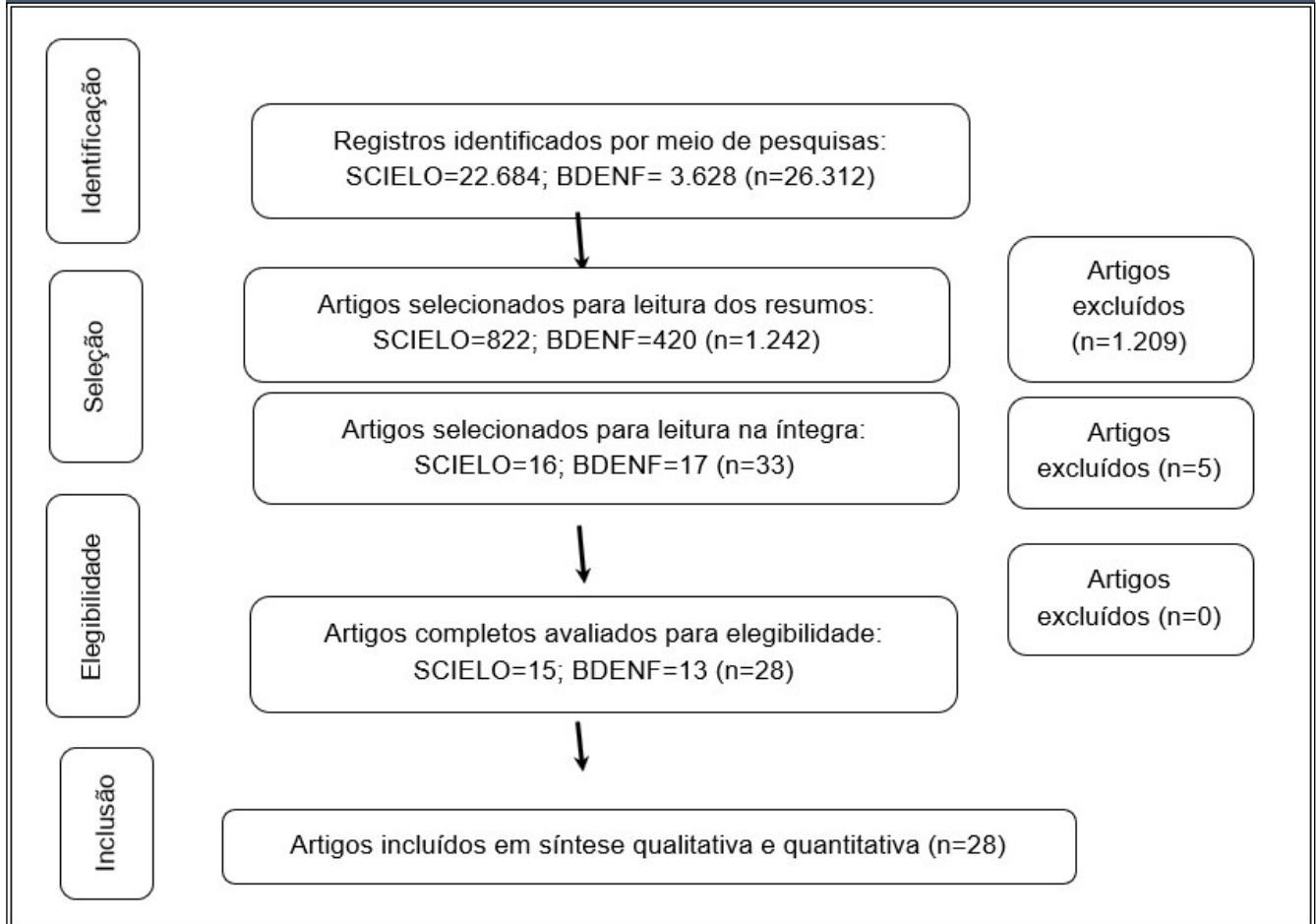
The extraction of information relevant to the study was performed by two independent reviewers; in cases of disagreement during data analysis, the full text of the article was consulted as a reference.

The integrative review article was registered on the *Open Science Framework* (OSF) platform to promote greater transparency in scientific research and minimize duplicate reviews, thereby preventing other researchers from replicating similar studies.⁷ Consequently, this integrative literature review was registered under number 10.17605/OSF.IO/XGBP8.

RESULTS

The database search identified 26,312 studies, of which 22,684 were from SCIELO and 3,628 from BDENF. After applying the selection strategy, 1,242 articles were selected for abstract review, of which 1,209 were excluded. Next, 33 studies were selected for full-text review, with 5 articles excluded for failing to meet the eligibility criteria. Thus, 28 full-text articles were evaluated and included in the synthesis of this integrative review.

Figure 1 shows the flowchart for the selection of studies identified through the database search strategy, in accordance with the PRISMA model.⁸

Figure 1 - Flowchart of studies selected according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA). Cáceres, MT, Brazil, 2026.

Source: authors' own work.

Thus, Table 2 presents the 28 articles included in this integrative review.

The studies were interpreted, compared, and synthesized, enabling an analysis of the evidence related to

the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of cancer patients.⁸

Table 2 – Summary of the articles included in the integrative review. Cáceres, MT, Brazil, 2026.

Journal	Authors and Year of Publication	Title	Design	Results	Level of Evidence
Cogitare Enfermagem	(Silva et al., 2019) 9	Sociodemographic and Clinical Profile of Women with Genital Tract Cancer Undergoing Radiotherapy.	Ecological study.	Results showed a higher incidence in the age groups of 40–49 years (23.18%) and 50–59 years (22.84%), with a mean age of 51.53 years. Women with primary education, white, and married predominated. The most prevalent neoplasm was cervical cancer (78.97%), with the highest prevalence rate between 60 and 69 years.	IV
Online Brazilian Journal of Nursing	(Faria et al., 2020) 10	Sociodemographic and clinical profile of cancer patients who sought the emergency care service of a general public hospital: descriptive study.	Descriptive, cross-sectional, quantitative study.	Forty-four cancer patients were identified, with a predominance of males, mixed-race (parda), mean age of 61.4 years, married/in a stable union, Catholics, with primary education, and without professional activity. The most prevalent cancers were genitourinary and hematological, followed by lung and gastrointestinal cancers.	IV

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Av Enferm	(Paiva et al., 2020) 4	Profile of cancer care in a Brazilian health macro-region.	Quantitative, exploratory, cross-sectional, and descriptive approach study.	The study identified 54,206 oncology care encounters, with a predominance of males, individuals aged 60 to 79 years, white skin color, incomplete primary education, and married marital status. Skin neoplasms were the most frequent, followed by cancers of the male genital organs.	IV
Revista de Enfermagem e Atenção à Saúde	(Oliveira, Gomes, Silva, 2021) 11	Profile of patients treated at an oncology outpatient clinic of a public teaching hospital.	Documentary, retrospective, descriptive study with a quantitative approach.	The study analyzed 89 women, with a predominance of the 18 to 59 age group. The most frequent cancers were breast cancer, followed by cervical cancer, alongside the identification of rare cases of vulvar cancer. Participants' age ranged from 17 to 87 years.	IV
Revista de Enfermagem UFPE On Line	(Raimundo et al., 2019) 12	Clinical and sociodemographic manifestations in workers with oral cancer.	Quantitative, descriptive, cross-sectional study using secondary data.	The study details that out of 31 clients, the mean age was 65 years, with a minimum of 41 and a maximum of 89 years, with the majority falling in the 61 to 70 age group. Most clients (n = 31) were male (83.3%). Urban residents predominated, with 28 males and 5 females. In rural areas, females predominated with 6, and males with 2.	IV
Revista CuidArte Enfermagem	(Dallouf et al., 2020) 3	Epidemiology of cancer in the public health system of Catanduva, São Paulo, Brazil.	Retrospective observational study.	The study demonstrated a similar incidence between men and women from 2012 to 2015, with a higher occurrence of malignant melanoma in men over 40 years old. The most incident cancers were breast, colorectal, and prostate, highlighting, among women, thyroid and breast cancers, and among men, mouth/pharynx, esophagus, larynx, and bladder cancers. Overall, the most prevalent types were breast, prostate, colorectal, stomach, mouth/pharynx, and uterine body.	IV
Revista Enfermagem em Foco	(Souza et al., 2020) 2	Oncological disease: epidemiological profile in a reference unit in the Amazon.	Cross-sectional study with a quantitative, descriptive, and documentary approach.	There was a female predominance of 55% (177). Age group between 60–69 years accounted for 21% (68). The majority were married and/or in a stable union with 56% (178). Incomplete primary education accounted for 40% (129). Without fixed occupation accounted for 58% (186). Origin: Others 37% (118). Cervical cancer (33%) predominated in females, and prostate cancer (30%) in males.	IV
Cogitare Enfermagem	(Olario et al., 2018) 13	Deinstitutionalization in palliative care: profile of users of a unit in Rio de Janeiro/Brazil.	Descriptive and retrospective study based on quantitative investigation method.	The study sample consisted of 655 registered people in palliative care. The sample consists of 330 (50.4%) female users, and 325 (49.6%) male users, which is not statistically relevant. Regarding the predominant age group, it is composed of people over 60 years old in 493 users (75.3%). Regarding diagnosis typology, the majority have cancer, 406 (61.9%), with a predominance of prostate cancer, 117 (17.9%), followed by breast cancer present in 98 (15%) of cases.	IV
Ciência, Cuidado e Saúde	(Moura et al., 2021) 1	Sociodemographic and clinical characterization of men with prostate cancer: subsidies for nursing care.	Cross-sectional, descriptive study with a quantitative approach.	It was observed in the study that out of 55 participants, there was a predominance of men in the age group of 70 to 79 years, 25 (45.45%); white, 25 (45.45%); married, 35 (63.64%); with incomplete primary education, 30 (54.55%); Catholic, 41 (74.55%); urban residents, 48 (87.27%); retired, 44 (80%).	IV
Revista de Enfermagem do Centro-Oeste Mineiro	(Moreira et al., 2020) 14	Characterization of patients under palliative care undergoing peripheral venous puncture and hypodermoclysis.	Observational, descriptive study with prospective follow-up.	The sample was predominantly male, with a mean age of 66.56 years, married/consensual union, and low education level. The most frequent diagnoses were lung, colorectal, and breast cancer, while the most prevalent metastases were hepatic, pulmonary, and bone.	IV

Rev Enferm Health Care	(Cabral et al., 2020) 15	Clinical characterization of elderly patients treated in an oncology unit in Minas Gerais.	Descriptive, exploratory, quantitative study.	A total of 3,666 individuals participated in the study, being males (59.87%) and females (40.61%). There was a higher predominance of prostate cancer in 824 (37.85%), followed by other cancers in 601 (27.60) among males. In females, there was a prevalence of other cancers in 531 (35.66%), followed by skin and face cancer in 299 (20.0).	IV
Online Brazilian Journal of Nursing	(Sardinha et al., 2021) 16	Association between demographic variables and cervical cancer staging in elderly women: a retrospective study.	Observational, retrospective, and analytical study.	The age group of 65 to 70 years was most prevalent in the total population (n=167; 30.2%). Regarding race, mixed-race (parda) was the most prevalent at 255 (46.1%). Incomplete primary education predominated at 236 (42.7%). Married status was most prevalent with 252 (45.6%). Regarding occupation, elderly female farmworkers were the most frequent.	IV
Revista Cubana de Enfermería	(Cunha et al., 2020) 17	Association between clinical and demographic variables of patients admitted to an oncological intensive care unit and nursing workload.	Prospective cohort study.	The study comprised 55 patients admitted to the ICU. Data show a similar proportion between male (49.09%) and female (50.91%) patients. There is a predominance of patients with abdominal neoplasms (29.09%), followed by patients with neurological cancer (18.18%) and clinical oncology (14.55%). Maximum age was 80 years, minimum age was 18 years, and mean was 55.10 years.	IV
Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial	(Rocha et al., 2019) 18	Comparative analysis of the histopathological and epidemiological profile of ductal and lobular breast carcinomas diagnosed at the Hospital de Clínicas da Universidade Federal do Paraná between 2008 and 2013.	Retrospective and analytical study.	It was identified that breast carcinoma cases were of ductal, special, or lobular types. Almost universally (354 cases), breast carcinomas were observed in females (99.1%) aged over 50 years, 240 (67.2%), and under 50 years, 117 (32.7%). In males, 3 cases were observed.	IV
Revista Epidemiologia e Serviços de Saúde	(Borges et al., 2020) 19	Thyroid cancer in Brazil: A descriptive study of cases held on hospital-based cancer registries.	Descriptive study.	The study featured 52,912 cases, of which 83.4% (44,104) were female. The predominant age group was 40–49 years (12,985). Education level was primary education (16,971). Cases predominated in the Northeast region (21,426).	IV
Revista do Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgias	(Ramos et al., 2019) 20	Gastric cancer in young adults: a worse prognosis group?	Retrospective analysis study.	It was identified that 875 (93.7%) were diagnosed as gastric adenocarcinoma. There were 550 men (62.9%) and 325 women (37.1%), with a mean age of 65 years. Regarding age, 791 (90.4%) were older.	IV
Escola Anna Nery	(Beck et al., 2019) 21	Characterization of people with hemato-oncological diseases admitted to an emergency unit.	Quantitative correlational, descriptive cross-sectional study.	There was a predominance of males at 40 (61.5%), with a mean age of 63.4 years, minimum of 25 and maximum of 88 years, white race at 62 (95.4%), incomplete primary education at 36 (55.4%), and married at 36 (53.8%). A predominance of lymphomas and leukemias (30.8%) was observed, followed by gastrointestinal tumors (24.6%) and breast tumors (15.4%).	IV
Revista de Saúde Pública	(Rozario, Silva, Koifman, Silva, 2019) 22	Characterization of women with cervical cancer assisted at Inca by histological type.	Retrospective, descriptive, and exploratory observational study.	The most frequent histological type in the study was squamous cell carcinoma (83.9%). A total of 731 (72.8%) women were diagnosed at over 40 years of age. There was a predominance of non-white women at 677 (67.4%), with less than 8 years of schooling at 521 (51.9%), and 509 (50.7%) without a partner.	IV
Revista Psicologia: Teoria e Pesquisa	(Zayat, Azevedo, Domenico, Bergerot, 2021) 23	Predictor factors of emotional and physical symptoms reported by cancer patients.	Descriptive, correlational, and quantitative study.	The study identified 73 patients with a minimum age of 22 and maximum of 86, mean of 59.5 years. Females accounted for 48 (65.8%), married for 38 (52.1%), primary education for 43 (58.9%), white race for 39 (53.4%). The most incident types of cancer were gastrointestinal (32.9%, n=24), breast (19.2%, n=14), and CNS (11%, n=8).	IV

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Cadernos de Saúde Pública	(Lima, Villela, 2021) 24	Sociodemographic and clinical factors associated with the time to start colon and rectum cancer treatment in Brazil, 2006-2015.	Retrospective cohort study.	The study analyzed 79,147 cases of colorectal cancer, with 49.44% colon and 50.56% rectum, registered in 263 hospital units in Brazil, with a higher concentration in the Southeast Region. A predominance of patients between 60 and 69 years old, low education, and a higher frequency of individuals with a partner was observed. Regarding regional distribution, the Southeast concentrated most cases, followed by the South and Northeast regions, while North and Center-West presented lower proportions. Sociodemographic characteristics were similar across cancer types, highlighting a higher occurrence in white and mixed-race individuals with a low education level.	IV
Revista de Saúde Pública	(Barros et al., 2019) 25	Therapeutic itinerary of women with breast cancer treated in the Federal District, Brazil.	Cross-sectional study.	The study involved the participation of 600 women; the mean age at diagnosis was 53.3 years, with the majority aged between 50 and 69 years (47%), self-declared mixed-race or black (62.4%), residing in the DF (65.8%), and having 8 or fewer years of schooling (47.1%).	IV
Revista Brasileira de Saúde Materno Infantil	(Silva et al., 2018) 26	Profile of women with cervical cancer attended for treatment in oncology center.	Documentary, descriptive, exploratory, and retrospective study.	The study resulted in a sociodemographic profile showing a predominance of women aged between 40 and 59 years (45.37%), non-white race/skin color (91.75%), incomplete primary education (44.32%), and single marital status (41.90%).	IV
CoDAS (Communication Disorders, Audiology and Swallowing)	(Figueiredo et al., 2019) 27	Profile and speech-language rehabilitation of patients with laryngeal cancer.	Cross-sectional study.	It was identified that there was a prevalence of the male gender (95.10%), aged 60 years or older (53.43%), primary education (77.37%), service sector occupation (44.12%).	IV
Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem	(Rosa et al., 2019) 28	Epidemiological profile of women with gynecological cancer undergoing brachytherapy: cross-sectional study.	Observational epidemiological cross-sectional documentary study.	The highest predominance in the study was found among women with white skin color, 1,801 (93.3%); with primary education (incomplete/complete), 1,255 (65%); with a partner, 1,053 (54.5%). The highest percentage of women's ages was found in the 50-59 age group, 469 (24.3%), followed by the 40-49 age group, 442 (22.9%).	IV
Cogitare Enfermagem	(Moura et al., 2021) 29	Epidemiological and surgical profile of neuro-oncology patients subjected to neurological surgeries.	Descriptive, retrospective study with a quantitative approach.	The study identified a predominance of male patients (50.8%), aged between 41 and 50 years (30.8%), and complete primary education (44.6%). Most self-declared mixed-race (93.8%) and, regarding marital status, single individuals predominated (38.5%). Regarding occupation, women mostly performed housework and men worked as farmworkers. Regarding tumor location, the majority were encephalic (60%), followed by skull, brain, and pituitary in smaller proportions.	IV
Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial	(Teixeira, Vasconcelos, 2019) 30	Histopathological profile of patients diagnosed with malignant tumors assisted at a reference hospital in Agreste Pernambucano.	Cross-sectional, descriptive documentary survey study of a quantitative nature.	Seventy-four cases were selected. Regarding gender, males accounted for 51% of cases (38), being slightly more affected compared to females, which presented 49% (36). The most prevalent age group was patients between 50 and 70 years old. The most prevalent anatomical location with tumors was intestine/rectum (30%) and skin (30%).	IV

Revista Epidemiologia e Serviços de Saúde	(Junior, Silva, 2018) 31	Temporal trends and factors associated with advanced-stage diagnosis of cervical cancer: analysis of data from hospital-based cancer registries in Brazil, 2000-2012.	Time-series analysis and cross-sectional study.	Total participants in the study were 65,843 women. Median age at diagnosis was 52 years (18 to 111 years); 36.04% had incomplete primary education; 45.16% were married. Regarding race/skin color, the majority were mixed-race at 50.85%. Women aged 45 to 49 years represented 13.05% of cases. The hospital unit region that prevailed was the Southeast region, concentrating 45.89%, followed by the Northeast (31.21%), South (11.34%), North (9.68%), and Center-West (1.89%). For histological type of cervical cancer, squamous was the most incident at 82.55%.	IV
Saúde em Debate	(Carvalho et al., 2018) 32	Care trajectories of women between diagnosis and start of cervical cancer treatment.	Qualitative and quantitative study.	It was identified that out of 174 women diagnosed with invasive cancer who participated in the study, 114 (65.5%) presented locally advanced disease. The mean age of women with invasive cancer was 49.9 years, with the youngest being 23 and the oldest 93. This includes 47 women diagnosed with Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia. The mean age of women diagnosed with Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia was 38.9 years, with the youngest being 22 and the oldest 76.	IV

DISCUSSION

The studies identified in this integrative review indicate that the incidence of cancer in Brazil, when broken down by gender, is higher among men.¹⁵ The findings of the present study were similar to those of other studies included in the review. Thus, it was observed that, of the 28 studies analyzed, 16 showed a predominance of cases among men and 12 among women.

Men engage in habits that are harmful to health, such as smoking and alcohol abuse, which constitute risk factors for various cancers, including prostate cancer—one of the leading causes of illness among men, as demonstrated by Brazilian morbidity and mortality data. In this context, the importance of primary and secondary care initiatives targeting this population is highlighted, especially through health education activities aimed at the early detection of cancer.²⁹

The incidence of cervical cancer has been declining worldwide. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the third leading cause of cancer worldwide, and the increase in colorectal cancer cases

has also been linked to HPV infection.³ Some studies included in this review also highlight the prevalence of cervical cancer.^{31,2,26,28}

According to one study, older women with low levels of education are at higher risk of developing cervical cancer and, when diagnosed, tend to be in more advanced stages of the disease. According to the authors, in these cases, treatment is often palliative in nature, focused primarily on maintaining quality of life. Furthermore, a lack of basic knowledge about the disease, prevention, and signs and symptoms can hinder adherence to screening and treatment, as these women may not understand the importance of undergoing a Pap test.¹⁶

It should be noted that the age range of women with cervical cancer varied between 40 and 59 years. A predominance of this age group was identified in two studies conducted in the city of Teresina, Piauí, and in the state of Espírito Santo, with age ranges of 50 to 59 years and 40 to 59 years, respectively.²⁶

The women most affected by cervical cancer were Black and Indigenous, and the majority were unmarried at the time of diagnosis, including di-

vorced and widowed women.³¹ Another study also identified a predominance of mixed-race and unmarried women diagnosed with uterine cancer; however, a lower incidence was observed among married and white women.²⁶

It was found that, in all studies, cancer patients had a low level of education, having completed only elementary school or not even that. This indicates a possible lack of knowledge about the disease. Consequently, this educational gap among cancer patients may contribute to delayed diagnosis and, as a result, to less effective treatment or treatment that is not administered in a timely manner, which increases the risk of recurrence, metastasis, and death.²⁶

Regarding marital status, it is important for cancer patients to have companionship and support to seek guidance and care upon receiving a diagnosis. The absence of romantic relationships can pose a barrier to coping with the disease when it is experienced in isolation.²¹ Few studies have noted a predominance of patients who are married, in a relationship, or in a stable or consensual partnership, while most studies have

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indicated that the majority of individuals are ^{single}.^{4,9,10,18,20,21,27}

Consistent with the finding that the study population is predominantly elderly—with ages over 60—one study indicated that this is due to increased life expectancy, which results in longer exposure to carcinogenic factors. This scenario therefore contributes to the higher incidence and persistence of cancer cases.³⁰

The most prevalent cancer among men is prostate cancer, and the findings indicate a high incidence of this tumor in this population. Screening for the disease through digital rectal examination and the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test enables early diagnosis. Among the main risk factors,

advanced age stands out, with the study observing a higher incidence in individuals over 60 years of age.¹⁵

In this Integrative Review, the predominant races among patients were white and brown. In this regard, the findings are consistent with the literature, as studies predominantly report white, brown, and Black skin colors among cancer patients, as described in the studies.^{29,31}

CONCLUSION

Cancer is widely recognized as the disease that most significantly impacts life expectancy and contributes most to mortality in public health. Therefore, understanding the indi-

vidual characteristics of these patients is essential for the multidisciplinary team providing their care; this facilitates the planning of safer, more effective, and higher-quality care.

When proposing interventions for patients, it is important to consider available resources, adapt the language used in care guidance, and understand the sociodemographic profile of this population. Such knowledge can assist the healthcare team in implementing initiatives for health promotion, prevention, early diagnosis, health education, and timely treatment, ensuring comprehensive care for the individual.

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