



## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF PATIENTS ASSISTED BY THE ASSOCIAÇÃO PRESENTE DE APOIO A PACIENTES COM CÂNCER- PADRE TIÃOZINHO, IN THE YEAR 2017/2018

*Perfil epidemiológico dos assistidos pela Associação Presente de Apoio a Pacientes com  
Câncer - Padre Tiãozinho, no ano de 2017 /2018*

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**Abstract: Introduction:** The excessive or inadequate use of pesticides can directly or indirectly interfere with human and environmental health, representing one of the major public health problems. **Objective:** To know the opinions of the rural workers about the health risks related to the use of pesticides. **Methodology:** This is a descriptive-exploratory research, with a qualitative approach. It was carried out with 13 rural workers in a rural district from a municipality located in the North of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The collected data were typed in Word and later analyzed using the ATLAS.ti 7 software, employing the Thematic Content Analysis. **Results:** The rural workers presented a low schooling level and a superficial knowledge about the health risks involved in the handling of any type of pesticides. **Conclusion:** The results revealed the social vulnerability of these rural workers when daily handling pesticides in their work activities, and the risks related to their health became evident.

**Keywords:** Rural Workers' Health; Pesticides; Occupational risk.

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**Resumo: Introdução:** O câncer é hoje um grande problema de saúde pública. Daí advém a importância da Associação Presente com ações de prevenção, promoção, vigilância em saúde e cuidados paliativos. **Objetivo:** Conhecer o perfil epidemiológico dos assistidos pela Associação Presente de apoio a Pacientes com câncer – Padre Tiãozinho entre os anos de 2017 a julho de 2018. **Metodologia:** Trata-se de um estudo exploratório de caráter quanti-qualitativo realizado a partir de dados obtidos dos prontuários de pacientes assistidos pela Associação Presente entre os anos de 2017 e julho de 2018. Os dados levantados foram: número de pacientes assistidos, tipo de câncer, relação entre tempo de diagnóstico do câncer e início nos cuidados paliativos na Associação Presente; Principais queixas. **Resultados:** Visualizou-se maior incidência do câncer de mama nos assistidos, seguidos pelos de próstata, estômago e pulmão. As principais queixas foi a perda da qualidade de vida, correlacionando com os sintomas de dor, perda ponderal, astenia, entre outros, além do início precoce dos cuidados paliativos após o diagnóstico na maioria do grupo analisado. **Conclusão:** O crescente e contínuo aumento de novos casos de câncer no Brasil exige estratégias cada vez mais eficiente para o cuidado da pessoa doente e de seus familiares. Assim, a Associação Presente vem há algum tempo desempenhando importante papel nessa direção, utilizando os Cuidados Paliativos como suporte a estes indivíduos, ao proporcionar qualidade de vida, ações de prevenção e alívio do sofrimento de doentes de câncer e de seus familiares.

**Palavras-chave:** Cuidados paliativos; Câncer; Associação Presente.

## INTRODUCTION

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Cancer is characterized by the inordinate multiplication of cells that infiltrate tissues and organs, which may spread (metastasized) to other parts of the body. The formation of malignant neoplasms is determined by rapid division of cells, which tend to be uncontrollable and very aggressive<sup>1</sup>. It is estimated for the years 2018-2019 an occurrence of 600 thousand new cases of cancer, for each year in Brazil or 420 thousand cases if excluded the cases of non-melanoma tumors<sup>2</sup>.

Among the several types of cancer the most incidents, excluding non-melanoma skin, are prostate, lung and stomach cancers in men; breast, cervical and bowel in women. Evaluating the most severe are lung and esophagus in both genders<sup>3</sup>. There is currently an increasing and continuous increase in new cases of cancer that can cause a functional loss and dependence. In this circumstance, the Palliative Cares are an important measure, with the aim of providing quality of life, to prevent and alleviate the suffering of individuals and their families in the face of diseases that threaten life<sup>4</sup>.

Patients with diseases in advanced stage without chance of cure are treated in hospitals, where they are subjected to unnecessary procedures, when insufficient methods and exaggerated are carried out in an attempt to cure the patient. Therefore, the approach of these patients should be directed to alleviate the main symptoms that affect their quality of life, such as pain, which is the most prevalent symptom and greater suffering<sup>4</sup>.

In Brazil, the Palliative Cares began at the beginning of 1980 presenting a considerable growth from the year 2000, with the strengthening of services already present and the formation of

others. Fortunately, in every country, every day that passes are emerging new actions<sup>4</sup>. In Montes Claros - Minas Gerais the Institution Associação Presente of Support to Cancer Patients - Pai Tiãozinho has operated since 2004 having as a task to promote assistance, care and support to young people, adults and the elderly needy cancer patients<sup>5</sup>. In this study, it was aimed to know the epidemiological profile of those assisted by Associação Presente for Cancer Patients - Pai Tiãozinho between the years 2017 and July 2018.

## METODOLOGIA

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This is an exploratory study, explanatory nature and quanti-qualitative analysis carried out based on data obtained from the medical records of assisted patients in the year of 2017 and in the first half of 2018 by Associação Presente to Support Cancer patients - Pai Tiãozinho.

The data collected from the files were: number of patients assisted, type of cancer, relationship between time to diagnosis cancer and beginning of palliative care in Associação Presente and main complaints.

Data collection occurred in the month of July 2018.

The research was conducted within the standards required by Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the Research Ethics opinion No. 2.599.222, dated from April 14th of 2018, Montes Claros.

## RESULTS

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According to a survey conducted in 42 medical records of patients assisted by

Associação Presente in the year of 2017 and the first half of 2018, several types of neoplasia were diagnosed, being that most patients had breast cancer (14.3%). In second place were those with prostate cancer (11.9%). Followed by Esophageal neoplasms (9.5%), stomach and lung (7.1%). The remaining cases as the cervix of the uterus, cholangiocarcinoma, multiple myeloma, ovary, among others, were below 5% (Table 1).

**Table 1 - Number and percentage of patients assisted by Associação Presente in relation to the type of cancer in the years 2017 and 2018**

Type of cancer	N	%
Prostate	5	11.9
Thyroid	1	2.4
Eye	1	2.4
Breast	6	14.3
Ovary	1	2.4
Stomach	3	7.1
Esophagus.	4	9.5
Endometrium	1	2.4
Gallbladder	1	2.4
Cervix	2	4.7
Lung	3	7.1
Myeloma	2	4.7
Pharynx	1	2.4
Cholangiocarcinoma	2	4.7
Rectum	1	2.4
Pancreas	1	2.4
Ovary	2	4.7
Shoulder	1	2.4
Skin.	1	2.4
Larynx	1	2.4
Intestines	1	2.4
Primary site in research	1	2.4

Source: Associação Presente, 2018

In relation to the main complaint at the first consultation, a large majority of the patients reported pain, representing 32.3%. In addition, 8 indications of weight loss were computed, corresponding to 11.8% of the information. Statements were also reported of asthenia (7.3%), fatigue (6.1%), and constipation (4.4%). Three patients arrived for the

appointment without complaint. It is worth noting that some patients have reported more than a complaint at the first appointment (Table 2).

**Table 2 - Number and percentage of patients assisted by Associação Presente in relation to the main complaint in the first appointment in the years 2017 and 2018**

Main complaint at the first appointment	N	%
Pain	22	32.3
Nausea	2	3.0
Fatigue	4	6.1
Asthenia	5	7.3
Weight Loss	8	11.8
Diarrhea	1	1.5
Breathless	1	1.5
Discomfort	1	1.5
Burning sensation in the penis	1	1.5
Itching in the penis	1	1.5
Dysphagia	1	1.5
Hyperoxia	1	1.5
Dysuria	1	1.5
Inappetence	2	3.0
Insomnia	1	1.5
Cough	3	4.4
Discouragement	1	1.5
Constipation	3	4.4
Difficulty ambulating	1	1.5
Dyspnea	1	1.5
Vomiting	1	1.5
A fetid odor in the oral cavity	1	1.5
Hiccup	1	1.5
Fall of the general state	1	1.5
Without complaint	3	4.4

Source: Associação Presente, 2018

In what refers to the time interval between diagnosis and the beginning of Palliative Care, almost half of the patients, began in the same year, i.e. 43.75%. Five other people, corresponding to 15.6%, began to receive such care after a year of diagnosis. After two years of diagnosis, three patients were subjected to Palliative Cares and the same represents those who started after three years of diagnosis. Two patients, 6.2%, started treatment before the diagnosis (Table 3).

**Table 3 - Relationship between the time of diagnosis of cancer and beginning in palliative care in Associação Presente in the years 2017 and 2018**

Time between diagnosis and the beginning in palliative care	N	%
The same year	14	43.75
1 year	5	15.6
2 years	3	9.4
3 years	3	9.4
4 years	1	3.1
5 years	1	3.1
6 years	1	3.1
8 years	1	3.1
11 years	1	3.1
Without diagnosis	2	6.2

Source: Associação Presente, 2018

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

This study allows us to conclude that the workers realize that pesticides are detrimental for their health and acknowledge the importance of wearing the PPE for protecting their health. However, the social vulnerability of these rural workers became evident daily when they handled the pesticides, as well as the risks to their health.

The social responsibility with the health of the rural workers requires much more than the responsibility of the State in the elaboration of public policies. It demands the involvement of all institutions in the development of social strategies at the local and regional level that reduce the inequalities and promote the well-being of the vulnerable people, in this case the agricultural workers.

## CONFLICTING INTERESTS

conflicting interests in the present study regarding the funding of this investigation.

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