



EPIDEMIOLOGY

UNDERSTANDING THE PATIENT PROFILE AND THEIR DEMANDS AT A TEACHING HOSPITAL DERMATOLOGY CLINIC

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Introduction: According to the Brazilian Society of Dermatology, skin diseases are among the top three drivers of demand for health services. Several studies show the negative impact of dermatological conditions, especially chronic ones, on quality of life. Understanding epidemiologic profiles is necessary to plan preventive strategies in healthcare services.

Objective: To assess the characteristics and demands of patients seen at the dermatology clinic at Miguel Riet Jr. University Hospital between 2014 and 2016.

Materials and Methods: We performed manual data collection of clinical and demographic data through a standardized questionnaire, followed by computer-assisted categorization and data analysis. The variables analyzed were age, gender, ethnicity, education, religion, occupation, comorbidities, medications, diagnostic method, dermatologic disease and therapeutic method. The questionnaires were entered into RedCap software, exported to a SQL server database and analyzed in Excel.

Results: A total of 1023 consultations were scheduled for 696 patients. Of this total, 214 did not attend the consultations or did not have the records of their queries found. Among the remaining 482, we identified 773 diseases. There was 300 (62.2%) females, 181 males (37.6%), and one patient with missing gender. The average age was 44.5 years (41.5 for men and 46.2 for women). The most frequent skin disorders were benign cutaneous tumors (17.8%), eczema (13.9%), cutaneous infections (11.0%) and erythematous squamous diseases (10.3%). Atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and actinic keratosis were the most common disease in children, adults and the elderly, respectively. Hypertension (30.1%), diabetes (12.2%), smoking (9.1%), dyslipidemia (7.3%) and asthma (4.8%) were the most common comorbidities observed.

Conclusions: Knowing the epidemiological profiles of patients and their primary diagnoses enables better understanding of their needs and allows for resource reallocation. Actions and investments in this clinic should be directed to treatment and prevention of these diseases.

