

<https://doi.org/10.29289/259453942023V33S1047>

The impact of the pandemic on breast cancer screening in Brazil

Letícia Antunes Spíndola¹, Monique Veloso Lima¹, Grazielle Vasconcelos de Moura Silva¹, Lais Mendes Soares¹, Ana Beatriz dos Santos Silva¹, Gisele de Jesus Batista¹

¹Universidade de Gurupi – Gurupi (TO), Brazil.

Objective: The objective of this study was to analyze the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the screening of breast cancer cases in Brazil. **Methodology:** This is an epidemiological, descriptive, quantitative, and comparative study. The Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (DATASUS) was used. Data from the Cancer Information System — SISCAN (cervix and breast) were selected, in which the selected option was “mammography — by patients.” The geographic coverage selected was “Brazil by region, state, and municipality.” The periods analyzed were from 2018 to 2022. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 in Brazil, the years 2018 and 2019 were analyzed as pre-pandemic, 2020 and 2021 as pandemic intervals, and 2022 as post-pandemic in order to compare the respective periods. **Results:** In 2018, 2,751,104 screening mammography exams were performed, of which 24,374 were BI-RADS 4, 5, or 6. In 2019, of the 3,303,248 exams, 29,645 were of the same classification; in 2020 (1,825,626), 21,464; in 2021 (2,623,895), 28,733; and in 2022 (3,222,436), 35,149. It is noted that there was a decrease in the number of mammograms during the pandemic period, but with an increase in the number of BI-RADS of suspicious lesions, indicating prioritization of patients with risk factors. In the year 2022, there were a greater number of exams and suspicious injury reports compared with the pre-pandemic and pandemic periods. **Conclusion:** There was a reduction in the number of mammography exams during the pandemic, contributing to time-consuming diagnoses and an increase in cases of advanced tumors in the immediate post-pandemic period. Thus, the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on public health in Brazil is notorious.

Keywords: cancer; epidemiology; pandemic; COVID-19; mammography.