Chagas disease in Brazil: analysis of hospitalizations, acute cases and chronological series of mortality in the last 15 years

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Chagas disease affects millions around the world and its largest distribution in Latin America. In the Brazil (BR) this number is estimated in 2-3 million. The disease has two distinct phases: acute and chronic. The acute phase exhibits mild symptoms at the site of infection, it is sensitive to treatment with antiparasitic agentes. The chronic phase is asymptomatic and the only drug currently available for the treatment is Benznidazole. This work was carried out to study the historical series of hospitalizations, deaths and acute cases of Chagas disease to evaluate the context of this disease in Brazil. Data collected from 2000-2015 the Department of the Unified Health System (DATASUS / MS) for federative units of Brazil. Rates (per 100,000 population) of hospitalizations, mortality and acute cases were obtained by consulting the Hospital Information System, Mortality Information System and Notifiable Diseases Information System. The average national hospitalizations for Chagas disease was 0.73 from 2000-2015. The Midwest region with an average of 1.75 leads the number of hospital admissions in the country in that period. The Federal District averaging 3.5 is the state with the highest average number of admissions in the region. The country has shown decline of deaths in the period, the only regions that have lagged this decline were the North and Northeast, which showed some growth in the death rate. Interpolating the data on hospitalizations and deaths, evidence of mortality in amounts higher than national admissions rates between 2000-2015. Among 2000-2013, 1570 cases of acute Chagas were confirmed in Brazil. The highest rates of acute cases in this period are located in the North and Northeast of Brazil. Even Brazil demonstrating reduction in mortality, the disease remains a serious public health problem, especially in the North and Northeast. Thus, the maintenance and improvement of medical care actions, control and prevention already is key.

Palavras-chave: Chagas disease; Epidemiology; Mortality.

Apoio: CAPES, FACEPE.