Estimate/2020 – Cancer Incidence in Brazil

Estimativa/2020 – Incidência de Câncer no Brasil
Estimación/2020 – Incidencia de Cáncer em Brasil

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The Population-Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs)[1] are the golden standard to know the incidence of cancer and, therefore, are the best instrument for monitoring and evaluation of surveillance actions. The Ministry of Health, based in the existence of a wide set of experiences in development in Brazil since the decade of 1960, supported the actions for the implantation of information centers to collect, process and disclose information about cancer. Therefore, it appeared the Cancer Registries in Brazil[2], of several natures with the objective of evidencing the magnitude of this disease and provide indicators that could be used for the establishment of guidelines for cancer prevention and control.

In the last 35 years, the National Institute of Cancer José Alencar Gomes da Silva (INCA) has been supporting the implantation and maintenance of Cancer Registries in Brazil, promoting actions of technical nature that aim the standardization and qualification of information as well as technical capacitation of the professionals who work in this area. During this time, there has been a clear evolution of PCBRs in Brazil, in addition to the quantity which also grew. In the decade of 1980, there was one in each Region of the country and currently there is at least one in every state of Brazil. The PCBRs have improved the quality of the information and created historical series, essential for monitoring. Of the 28 PCBRs with information available, only two have less than five years of consolidated information.

With the availability of trustworthy and abundant information, it was possible the incorporation of more sophisticated models for the elaboration of the new estimates of cancer incidence. The estimates of cancer elaborated by INCA are aligned with the methodology used by the International Agency for Research on Cancer – Iarc) for the elaboration of world estimates (Globocan)[3], that are part of the Global Cancer Observatory.

The estimate of new cases of cancer is elaborated for Brazil and divided per geographic region, States, capitals and Federal District. This format, unique in Latin America and Caribbean, ensured to our country the recognition that it is one that has progressed more for the consolidation of an integrated system of cancer surveillance.

Many challenges still exist, among them, the strategy of keeping and strengthening the information centers (Hospital and Population-Based Cancer Registries) in order to allow the monitoring of the cancer status as a parameter for the whole country; and within this logic, through estimates of cancer, offer updated information and applicable to the strategic necessities of the country.

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