

Can the schooling level be used as prognostic factor in cervical cancer?

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Abstract

Aims: To evaluate the schooling level as a potential parameter for cervical cancer prognoses. **Methods:** Cervical cancer cases diagnosed during the period of 2000-2010, admitted to Barretos Cancer Hospital without previous treatment, with stages I, II, III or IV were included in the analysis. Socio-demographic analysis was conducted for age and schooling level. The clinical characteristics were based on information about the stage of disease at moment of diagnosis and status in the follow-up. The treatment characteristics were based on surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The schooling level was verified as a prognostic factor in Cox regression. **Results:** The 5-year overall survival rate was 53.3% for the whole group. Multivariate analysis observed the higher schooling level was associated with high survival rates: < high school showed a 0.715

relative risk, high school showed a 0.613 relative risk and college showed a 0.555 relative risk ($p < 0,05$). **Conclusion:** Women with better education have more chance of surviving cervical cancer, regardless of type, age and other treatment variables. The results suggest that education may be a prognostic factor for cervical cancer.