

Historical analysis of the Brazilian cervical cancer screening program from 2006 to 2013: a time for reflection

Ricardo Filipe Alves Costa (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil), Adhemar Longatto-Filho (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil), Céline Pinheiro (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil), Luiz Carlos Zeferino (UNICAMP, Brazil), José Humberto Fregnani (Barretos Cancer Hospital, Brazil)

BACKGROUND: Cervical cancer is a public health problem in the Brazilian population, and reducing the incidence and mortality caused by this cancer is one of the priorities of the Brazilian Health Ministry. The Cervical Cancer Database of the Brazilian National Health Service (SISCOLO) contains information regarding all cervical cytological tests and was implemented for the management and monitoring of the cervical cancer screening program. However, this data resource has been poorly exploited and deserves more attention. As a result, the aim of this study was to perform the historical analysis of the cervical cancer screening program, in Brazil, from 2006 to 2013. **HYPOTHESIS:** The cervical cancer screening quality indicators in Brazil change during the period from 2006 to 2013. **METHODS:** This is a temporal series study of the cervical cancer screening quality indicators in Brazil from 2006 to 2013. Data to calculate the quality indicators were obtained from SISCOLO, a Brazilian health system's tool. The joinpoint analysis was used to calculate the annual percentage change for each indicator. **RESULTS:** We observed an important tendency of decrease in LSIL and HSIL percentage, and an increase in the percentage of rejects exams from 2009 to 2013. The productivity ratio remained constant. The index of positivity was maintained in levels below to those indicated by international standards; very low frequencies of unsatisfactory cases were observed along the years, which contradict, in part, the low rate of positive cases. All positive cytological diagnoses were under the expected, if consider that developed countries with low frequencies of cervical cancer detect more lesions annually. **CONCLUSION:** The evolution of indicators from 2006 to 2013 suggests that actions must be taken to improve the effectiveness of the Brazilian cervical cancer screening program, as the productivity ratio and the positivity rate remained constant, while the proportion of ASC increased and proportion of HSIL decreased.