

however, there is a need to develop an educational and supportive organizational infrastructure. This would enhance knowledge and skills of behavioral change theories, ultimately increasing research integration in physical therapy.

Implications: Potential strategies may include incorporating behavioral change theories into undergraduate programs in this city.

Keywords: Health Promotion, Noncommunicable Diseases, Health promotion strategies

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255

PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC PAIN IN A STATE IN NORTHERN BRAZIL

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Background: Chronic pain represents a significant public health issue, characterized by its high prevalence and the associated physical, emotional, and social impacts. Investigating and understanding the distribution of this condition in different populations is essential to support policies and intervention strategies. In the Brazilian Amazon, there is a gap in studies focused on this topic, making it crucial to conduct research that allows for a deeper understanding of the regional scenario of this population.

Objectives: To identify the prevalence of chronic pain in the population of the state of Amapá.

Methods: A cross-sectional study investigating the prevalence of chronic pain in the state of Amapá, Brazil. Data were collected from 204 participants, aged 18 and older, through an online structured questionnaire.

Results: Of the 204 individuals, 131 (64.2%) reported experiencing pain; of these, 112 (85.5%) stated they had been experiencing pain for more than three months, while 19 (14.5%) reported pain for less than three months. The mean age was 32.6 ± 11.3 years; 145 (71.1%) were female. Regarding self-reported race, 112 (54.9%) identified as mixed-race, 59 (28.9%) as white, 32 (15.7%) as Black, and 1 (0.5%) as Asian. A total of 159 (77.9%) reported no associated disease or comorbidity, while 45 (22.1%) had at least one. Concerning physical activity, 68 (33.3%) engaged in regular exercise, while 136 (66.7%) did not.

Conclusion: The findings of this pioneering study indicate a high prevalence of chronic pain in the population of the state of Amapá, with higher occurrence among women and individuals who do not engage in physical activity.

Implications: Public and private health policies aimed at managing chronic pain in these individuals, as well as improving healthcare professionals' qualifications, could help reduce the physical, economic, and social impacts in this region of the country.

Keywords: Chronic pain, Prevalence, Amazon

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256

EXPLORING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' KNOWLEDGE OF STROKE: A STUDY IN HEALTH FACILITIES IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

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Background: Stroke is the second leading cause of death and the third leading cause of permanent disability among adults worldwide. Given that the duration of cerebral ischemia is directly correlated with the risk of permanent disability, rapid and efficient screening by a well-trained healthcare team is crucial. Previous worldwide studies observed low recognition of the major stroke symptoms, risk factors, sequelae and acute stroke management among HCPs, and few studies were found regarding the knowledge of health professionals about stroke management in the Brazilian population.

Objectives: This study aimed to assess HCPs' knowledge of stroke in health facilities in Southern Brazil to identify knowledge gaps that could inform future training initiatives. The primary objective was to evaluate HCPs' knowledge of stroke pathophysiology, signs and symptoms, emergency management, risk factors, and prevention. A secondary objective was to analyze the impact of previous stroke training and professional experience on knowledge levels.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted in public health facilities in Southern Brazil. A total of 296 HCPs participated, including physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and nursing assistants. Participants completed a validated questionnaire assessing stroke knowledge. Responses were categorized as adequate or inadequate based on established criteria. Statistical analyses included Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney tests for group comparisons and Spearman correlation for experience-related knowledge trends.

Results: The overall correct response rate was 46.6%. Physicians and medical interns had significantly higher scores than other professional groups ($p < 0.03$). Nursing assistants demonstrated the lowest accuracy (36.1%). Participants who had attended stroke training scored higher (52.2% vs. 45.1%, $p = 0.039$). A negative correlation was observed between years of professional experience and knowledge levels ($r = -0.275$, $p = 0.00$), suggesting a decline in knowledge retention over time. Only 33.4% of participants accurately described thrombolysis, and just 6.7% knew the correct therapeutic window for its administration. However, 75% correctly identified stroke prevention strategies.

Conclusion: Significant knowledge gaps about stroke exist among HCPs, particularly non-physicians, emphasizing the need for targeted education and continuous training programs. Future studies should assess the effectiveness of different educational approaches and expand research to other Brazilian regions.

Implications: The study highlights the urgent need for ongoing professional development in stroke management. Findings support integrating stroke education into undergraduate curricula and continuing education programs for practicing HCPs. Public policies should promote systematic training efforts to enhance early stroke recognition and management, ultimately improving patient outcomes and reducing stroke-related disability and mortality in Brazil.

Keywords: knowledge, health care team, CVA (Cerebrovascular Accident)