

Sentinel axillary lymph node biopsy: the deplorable situation in Brazil



Jackeline R. O. Guidoux, Edésio Martins, Pollyana A. Gouveia, Rosemar M. S. Rahal, Gustavo N. Guidoux, Ruffo de Freitas-Junior.
Breast Program, Teaching Hospital of the Federal University of Goiás, Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil

Purpose

Verify the amount of patients with breast cancer, users of the Brazilian National Health System (*Sistema Único de Saúde* [SUS]), submitted to sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB), between 2008 and 2015, analyzing differences among the different regions of the country.

Methods

Descriptive time-series study of the SLNB, according to the population-based database on hospital information (DATASUS/SIH), which records all the oncologic procedures executed by SUS, submitted to SLNB, between 2008 and 2015.

Summary of Results

During the report period, around 210.000 oncologic surgeries were performed in the country. Of this total, the number of axillary dissection performed was 9.717. Therefore, the number of SLNB was 909, distributed as followed: 3.52% in North, 13.53% in Northeast, 58.53% in Southeast, 19.8% in South and 4.63% in Midwest.

Conclusions

This technique was first codified by the SUS in 2013, after the verification of the lower morbidity compared with the axillary dissection. However, the number of SLNB realized, in our country, during the years analyzed was far behind the number of lymphadenectomy, with significant differences among the country regions.

Curve of the number of sentinel lymph

