

Is there a relationship between tumor morbidity and international immigrant status? Analysis from hospital records in Chile in 2012

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Introduction: In Chile migration has increased reaching 2.7% of the total population in 2014. Chile has few official statistics regarding the prevalence of diseases or health conditions in immigrants. Regarding access to and use of health services, most of the evidence comes from primary care, and virtually the health situation of immigrant secondary care population is currently unknown. We analyzed the relationship between tumor morbidity and migrant status in the general population to Chile in 2012.

Methodology: Prevalence study based on data from national hospital discharges in 2012. We compared standardized prevalence rates of tumor diagnosis (ICD-10 C00-D48) for Chilean and immigrant populations. We also stratified by age, sex and type of hospitalization. Prevalence rates were estimated using as the numerator the number of hospital discharges and as the denominator the number of people of same age and sex groups using CASEN 2012-2013 survey data set.

Results: We found a similar overall prevalence of tumors between Chilean and immigrants. Less than 4% of diagnosis ended in death (1.7% deaths among immigrants; malignant tumors) and 3.6% deaths in Chilean (91.6% malignant tumors). We found differences in types of tumors: digestive organs (19.8% immigrants, 23.9%Chilean), lymphatic tissue, blood-forming organs and related tissues (18.9% immigrants, 18.1% Chilean) and breast (17.8% immigrants, 10.7% Chilean). Besides, 22.3% of immigrant cases reported no healthcare provision versus only 1.1% of Chileans.

Conclusions: The overall prevalence of tumors was quite similar between Chilean and immigrants, but with significant differences in type of tumor, malignancy and healthcare provision entitlement.

