



# Residência **RP** Pediátrica

Publicação Oficial da Sociedade Brasileira de Pediatria

ISSN-Online: 2236-6814

Submitted on: 04/10/2020

Approved on: 04/14/2020

REVIEW

## Adrenal carcinoma in children: longitudinal study in Minas Gerais, Brazil

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The article "Adrenal Carcinoma in Children: Longitudinal Study in Minas Gerais, Brazil"<sup>1</sup>, from the Pediatric Oncology Service of Hospital das Clínicas, Federal University of Minas Gerais, describes the case series of children and adolescents with adrenal carcinoma who were followed up in that institution.

The retrospective study consisted of reviewing medical records of 13 patients under 18 years of age, followed up between 2004 and 2015. As it is a rare disease, representing only 0.2% of malignant tumors in children and adolescents, the study included a small number of patients. However, their results showed data very similar to those from multicenter studies previously carried out.

Several data were analyzed, including time between symptoms onset and the first medical appointment, waiting time until the first appointment with the specialist, number of appointments until diagnosis, time elapsed until treatment (complete tumor resection), demographic, clinical and laboratory data, image exams performed, pathology results, tumor staging, immunohistochemistry results, and chemotherapy performed or not.

According to the paper, upon diagnosis all the patients had precocious puberty. Hirsutism and virilization were the main symptoms that led patients to seek medical attention.

The authors comment that the TP53R337H genetic mutation, identified by immunohistochemistry, found in 90% of the population in the south and southeast regions, increases the incidence of this type of neoplasia by 10 to 15 times when compared to the worldwide incidence.

In the study, it patients older than four years had more advanced disease and could have metastases, which justifies the worst prognosis in this age group. A higher cure rate occurred when the adrenal carcinoma was completely resected, by laparotomy and without rupture of the tumor capsule. Patients with more advanced disease may benefit from the use of chemotherapy, but there is still a lack of data on its use in the treatment of adrenal carcinomas in children.

Based on the criteria used for staging adrenal carcinomas, the paper points out the need to readjust them to include criteria for a worse prognosis, such as age over four years, as well as a greater emphasis on criteria such as tissue invasion and having metastases.

Finally, the paper stresses the importance of pediatricians recognizing the alarm signs and the early diagnosis of pediatric neoplasms for the quick referral to the specialist. Thus, it is evident the importance of reading this paper regarding national cases, not only for the training of pediatric residents, but also for updating pediatricians who seek continuing education.

## REFERENCES

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