hydrolysis, and hemolysis analysis. Capsular serotyping was performed by latex agglutination, and molecular identification by MALDI-TOF MS and qPCR-HRM, with a primer adapted to the groEL gene.

Results: Most isolates (90%) showed typical beta-hemolysis, while 3.33% exhibited hyper-hemolysis, weak hemolysis, or absence of hemolysis. The most prevalent serotypes were III (36%), V (26%), and Ia (16%). The qPCR-HRM method demonstrated high sensitivity, with 68 of 69 samples (≈98%) positive for the groEL-3F gene. Regarding resistance profile, tetracycline had the highest rate (≈73%), followed by erythromycin (≈20%), clindamycin (≈5%), and levofloxacin (≈5%). No penicillin- or vancomycin-resistant strains were observed, but seven strains showed inducible clindamycin resistance (D-test) and five were classified as multidrug-resistant (MDR).

Conclusion: The data obtained in this study not only demonstrate the presence of clinically relevant antimicrobial resistance among clinical GBS strains, but also reveal levofloxacin resistance rates higher than those previously described in the literature. These results suggest a concerning trend of increasing and spreading resistance among GBS isolates. In addition, they reinforce the importance of continuous GBS monitoring, highlighting qPCR-HRM as a promising tool for rapid and specific diagnosis.

Keywords: qPCR-HRM, Antimicrobial Resistance, Streptococcus Agalactiae.

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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF MALARIA IN NORTHERN BRAZIL: AN ANALYSIS FROM 2013 TO 2023

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Introduction: Malaria, whose name derives from the Italian "mal'aira" (bad air), is an endemic disease in tropical and subtropical regions and continues to be considered a neglected disease. In Brazil, most cases occur in the Northern Region, accounting for more than 99% of autochthonous infections. This concentration is due to factors such as a climate favorable to vector proliferation (Anopheles spp.), presence of extractive activities, lack of adequate basic sanitation, and limited access to health services. The main etiological agents in the country are Plasmodium vivax and Plasmodium falciparum.

Objective: To describe the main epidemiological aspects of malaria in Northern Brazil between 2013 and 2023, focusing on temporal, spatial, and sociodemographic patterns.

Methods: Descriptive epidemiological study using data extracted from the Sistema de Informação de Vigilância Epidemiológica da Malária (SIVEP-Malária), covering confirmed cases between January 2013 and December 2023. Variables analyzed included state of occurrence, causative species, sex, age group, occupation, probable place of infection, and temporal distribution.

Results: The Northern Region accounted for approximately 90% of national cases, especially in the states of Amazonas, Acre, and Pará. P. vivax accounted for 80–90% of cases, followed by P. falciparum. Most infected individuals were male, aged 20–49 years, working in activities such as fishing, mining, and agriculture. A seasonal pattern was identified, with peaks between December and May, the period of higher rainfall. Despite a downward trend in recent years, outbreaks still occur, especially in indigenous areas and vulnerable communities.

Conclusion: Although there has been a reduction in cases, malaria remains an important public health challenge in Northern Brazil. Environmental conditions and the socioeconomic profile of exposed populations favor continued transmission. Thus, there is a need for specific regional strategies for prevention, early diagnosis, access to treatment, and active surveillance for disease control and future elimination.

Keywords: Malaria, Northern Region, Public Health, Epidemiology.

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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF PATIENTS AFFECTED BY HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS IN INTENSIVE CARE UNITS OF A PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN SOUTHERN BAHIA

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Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide, intensified by rising antimicrobial resistance, especially in intensive care units (ICUs). Southern Bahia lacks data on HAIs. The aim of this study was to characterize the epidemiological, clinical, and laboratory profile of patients diagnosed with HAIs caused by bacteria originating from ICUs in southern Bahia.

Method: This is a descriptive, observational study based on analysis of medical records and bacteriological reports of