

Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Title:

Cystic fibrosis in Latin America - Improving the awareness

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What was your research question?

Our aim for this review was to have a clearer understanding of the health climate in Latin America, as it relates to cystic fibrosis and subsequently highlight areas in need of intervention.

Why is this important?

Cystic fibrosis is not uncommon in Latin America, however, it often remains undiagnosed and access to medical treatment is suboptimal.

What did you do?

We conducted a literature search to assess what is currently known about CF in Latin America. By utilizing those findings, we are able to highlight advancements that are necessary to improve patient outcomes and enhance disease awareness.

What did you find?

Despite the relatively high incidence rate of CF in Latin America, difficulties still exist in regards to access to care, medical intervention and diagnostic testing.

Fortunately, patient registries are becoming more comprehensive in the region, facilitating healthcare providers to track CF incidence and patient outcomes. While many CF patients in Latin America still receive suboptimal care, there has been a moment toward introducing



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programs and guidelines, improving both awareness and treatment opportunities. Furthermore, several CF associations have been established throughout Latin America, offering a variety of support and advice for patients, carers and healthcare professionals.

What does this mean and reasons for caution?

Considerable efforts have been made in Latin America to educate healthcare professionals and patients, leading to improved outcomes for patients living with CF. Despite the progress that has been made, several areas still need considerable work, including the development and maintenance of CF patient registries; universal access to neonatal screening and up-to-date diagnostic tools; improvements in the provisions for adults with CF; and better access to care. In the meantime, patients need a plan to address disease management and treatment strategies to improve survival and augment quality of life.

What's next?

Collaboration with other countries to develop a comprehensive Latin American Patient Registry will help to identify areas of need and potential improvement.

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