

## Abstract

### **The Awareness of Pediatricians about Primary Immunodeficiencies in Brazil**

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Primary immunodeficiency diseases (PID) are still considered rare diseases in most developing countries. Lack of information about PID is one of the reasons for the high percentage of missed diagnosis.

Objective: To evaluate the degree of awareness of pediatricians about PID in Brazil

Material and methods: a 13-item questionnaire with a pre-paid envelope plus a card with the 10 warning signs (adapted from JMF) was sent to 34117 pediatricians throughout Brazil.

Results: The number of replies was 3047 (8.9%) and came from all regions of Brazil, mainly the southeast (10,5%). More than 70% had learned about PID from medical journals and meetings. Ninety seven percent of respondents had taken care of patients with recurrent infections and frequent use of antibiotics, but only 62% had evaluated patients for PID. Approximately 50% of the physicians weren’t aware of who to contact to obtain help in evaluating patients and almost 30% didn’t know that there is treatment for PID. The greatest difficulty in investigating a patient’s immune system was the cost followed, by the lack of laboratory and specialists. The vast majority (99.2%) of respondents were interested in receiving further information about PID. After reading the warning signs, 80% of respondents thought that some patients they care for should be evaluated for immunodeficiency.

Conclusion: The first step in improving the recognition and treatment of PID is increasing the awareness of these disorders in the community. A questionnaire that invites participation may be a cost-effective way of achieving this goal.

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