

## HUMAN PAPILOMAVÍRUS (HPV) INFECTION PREVALENCE AND ITS RELATION WITH CYTOLOGICALS ALTERATIONS OF THE CERVICAL EPITHELIUM

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Human papillomavírus (HPV) is one of the most common causes of uterine cervix infection in women worldwide, especially in developing countries. In this study was analyzed the occurrence of cervical alterations and its relations with HPV infection. Cervical specimens of 155 women of the city of São José do Mipibu – RN, were analyzed, with age varying of 16 to 70 years-old. For cytological analysis, the Papanicolau method was used and for HPV DNA detection was used the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), with primers GP5+/GP6+ that amplifies the L1 viral gene, a 140 pb segment. 152 women presented some alterations in the cervical epithelium, of which 25 (16, 4%) were HPV/PCR positive. Three women presented normal cytology and one of them was HPV/PCR positive. The HPV infection general prevalence was 16, 8%. 65, 4% cases were diagnosed in women with age between 16 and 25 years-old. A reduction in this infection index was observed among 26 until 35 years-old, increasing again after the 36 years-old. The majority of the analyzed women presented cervical low-grade lesions and the viral DNA was detected in a very significant part of them, being the infection most prevalent between the young women.

Words keys: Cervical infection, cytological alterations, HPV.