

Economic costs of nursing care for avoidable emergency care in palliative patients in Portugal

Tânia dos Santos Afonso^{1*}, Inês Filipa de Matos Santos¹, Lurdes Martins², Manuel Luís Capelas¹

¹ Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS), Portuguese Observatory of Palliative Care (OPCP), Portugal;

² Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS);

*Corresponding author: tania.s.afonso@ucp.pt

Background

There is limited knowledge regarding the economic cost of nursing care for palliative patients in avoidable emergencies. Difficulties in identifying palliative needs and defining the phenomenon of avoidability could contribute to this gap in understanding.¹

Research question

What is the **economic cost of nursing care** for palliative patients admitted to general hospital emergency departments in Portugal due to avoidable emergencies?

Methodology

- **Observational and retrospective** study;
- Analytical study using **data records** from 2019 (pre-pandemic);
- The **Delphi method** was used to define the concept of **avoidable emergency**:

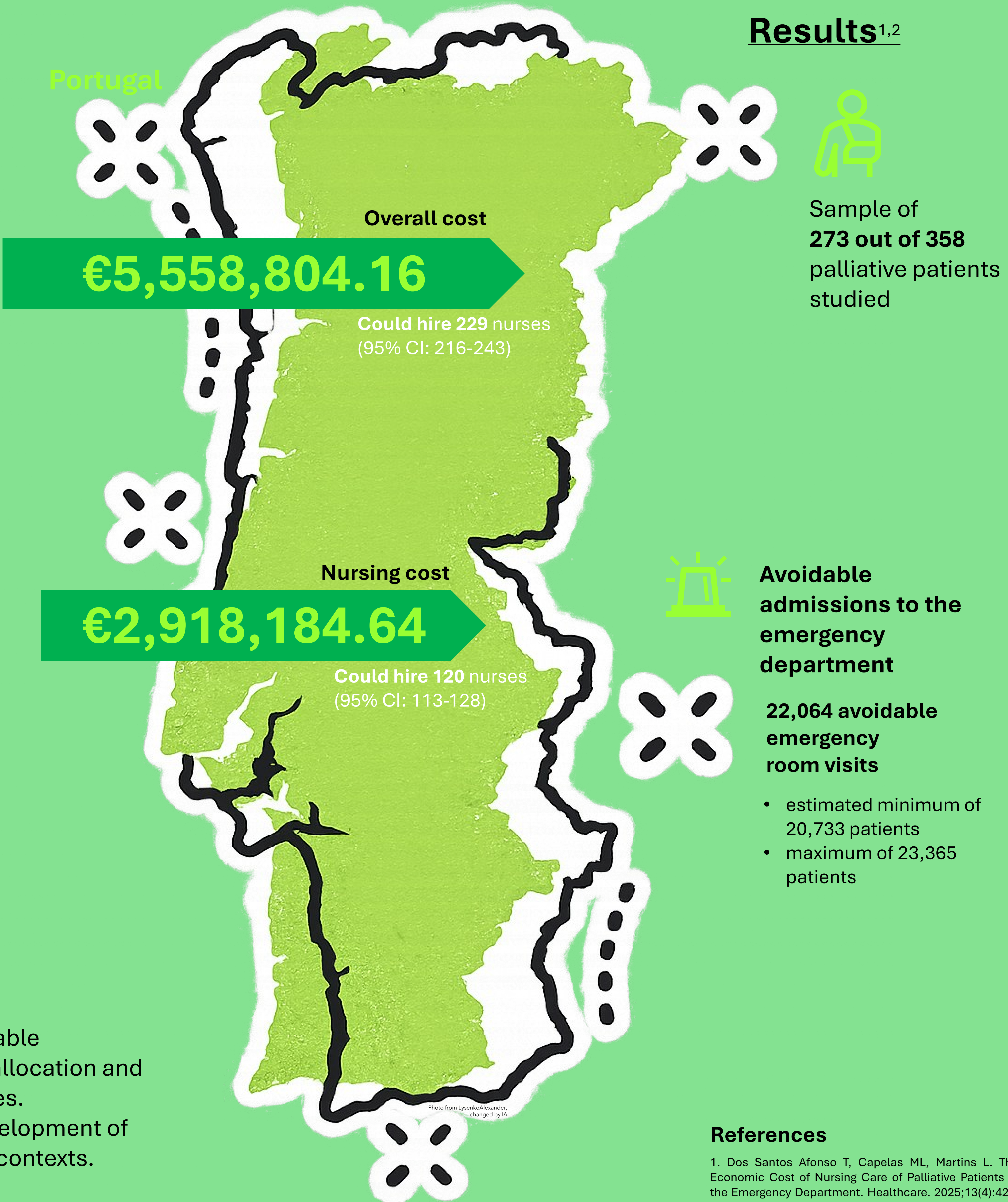
The one that arises from any reason that can be supported in a home or primary health care context. Namely, when there is monitoring by a team of community support in palliative care, as well as one that does not imply immediate nursing and medical intervention, nor does it translate into greater comfort or quality of life for the patient²

Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis were used to analyse the data.

Conclusion

Knowing the economic cost of avoidable emergencies would allow for better allocation and discussion of palliative care resources. Data such as these underpin the development of palliative care resources in different contexts.

Results^{1,2}



References

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2. Dos Santos Afonso T; Martins, L; Capelas, ML. Avoidable Emergency Admissions: Defining the Concept. Int. J. Palliat. Nurs. 2024;30:432-443. Doi:10.12968/ijpn.2024.30.8.43.