



Prevalence of human papillomavirus (HPV), distribution of HPV types, and risk factors for infection in HPV-positive women

M.V.C. Santos Filho¹, A.P.A.D. Gurgel², C.D.P. Lobo¹, A.C.F. Freitas², J.C. Silva-Neto³ and L.A.F. Silva¹

¹Laboratório de DNA Forense, Departamento de Biologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde, Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Maceió, AL, Brasil

²Laboratório de Estudos Moleculares e Terapia Experimental, Departamento de Genética, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, PE, Brasil

³Laboratório de Pesquisas Citológica e Molecular, Departamento de Histologia e Embriologia, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, PE, Brasil

Corresponding author: J.C.S. Neto
E-mail: jacinto.costa@ufpe.br

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ABSTRACT. The aim of this study was to describe the prevalence of human papillomavirus (HPV), the distribution of different HPV types, and the putative risk factors for infection among HPV-positive women from the State of Alagoas, Northeast Brazil. We analyzed data from 515 patients attending public and private health centers. HPV DNA from cervical samples was extracted and HPV genotyping was performed by polymerase chain reaction using MY09/11 consensus primers followed by direct sequencing. The chi-squared test for independence was used to assess statistical differences between the HPV groups. HPV DNA was found in 111 (21.55%) cervical samples. Twenty genotypes were

detected: HPV6, 11, 16, 31, 33, 35, 39, 52, 53, 54, 58, 61, 62, 66, 70, 72, 81, 82, 83, and 84. In addition, multiple sexual partners ($P = 0.002$) and the use of oral contraceptives ($P = 0.015$) were associated with the presence of HPV. These findings may be relevant to the design of screening and vaccination strategies targeting specific groups of women in Northeast Brazil.

Key words: Human papillomavirus; Human papillomavirus prevalence; Risk factors; Northeast Brazil