Brazilian physiotherapy services in the 2007 Pan-American Games: injuries, their anatomical location and physiotherapeutic procedures

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INTRODUCTION

During the Brazilian participation in the 2007 Pan-American Games, the country’s official delegation, under the responsibility of the Brazilian Olympic Committee (BOC), had an exclusive team of physiotherapists among its members, connected to BOC’s Medical Department. The current research aimed at presenting the profile of the treatments performed at the physiotherapy department of the BOC during the 2007 Pan-American Games, and this is one of the first studies ever carried out with this objective.

METHOD

Participants
The subjects of this study were athletes, official members of the Brazilian delegation during the 2007 Pan-American Games (n=660) and who were referred, by the BOC’s medical department, to the BOC’s physiotherapy department (n=434).

RESULTS

CONCLUSION

- The vast majority of the athletes (65.7%) in the Brazilian delegation looked for physiotherapeutic treatment;
- Approximately one quarter (22.1%) of the athletes were injured before the competition started;
- The major pathologies presented were the spine-related ones, tendinopathy and muscle strain;
- The spine, thigh and knee were the most affected parts of the body;
- Kinesiotherapy, ultrasound and cryotherapy were the most frequent procedures preformed at the physiotherapy department;