Objective: To assess the quality of death certificates in cervical cancer by identification of direct cause in Colombia and epidemiological characteristics determination of deceased women. Material and Methods: We reviewed the direct causes of death in patients whose basic cause of death was malignant tumor of the cervix in the death registry of the National Statistics Department of Colombia (DANE) in 2008. Distribution is evaluated by code of the direct cause of death, age, educational level, marital status, social security and site of death. Results: The average age at which the deaths occurred was 58 years (13-99 years) from a total of 1648 cases. The main direct causes of death were cancer of the cervix 324 (19.6%), insufficiency or respiratory failure in 276 (16.7%), cardiopulmonary arrest in 225 (13.6%) and multiple organ failure or multisystem 196 (11.8%). Conclusions: The main denominations listed on death records as a direct cause of death from cervical cancer was cervical cancer, insufficient or respiratory failure, cardiac arrest and multiple organ failure. However, evidence is that this arises from problems in the registry that allows for recording the basic cause of death certificates as the direct cause of death and causes associated with other diseases, regardless of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD -10). It requires improving the quality of each death record to use in the best way the information given by the death certificates.

Keywords
causes of death, uterine cervical neoplasms, death certificates