

O1039 Prevalence of HBV, HCV and HIV infections in immigrants in southern Italy

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Background: The migratory influx from countries with intermediate/high HBV, HCV and HIV prevalence has become an issue for hosting Western countries. AIM: to verify HBV, HCV, HIV prevalence in a cohort of immigrants.

Materials/methods: A multicenter prospective study involving 7 clinical centers in southern Italy (Naples, Caserta, Potenza, Foggia, Lamezia Terme) was performed between January '12 and June '18. We collected demographic, clinical data and risk factors for HBV, HCV and HIV and offered a screening program to all immigrants.

Results: We observed 4125 immigrants, mostly coming from sub-Saharan Africa (65.1%), Indo-Pakistan area (14.4%) and eastern Europe (10.1%). 3451 (83.7%) males, mean age 28 years (± 10 SD). 98.1% of subjects were screened for serum HBsAg, 97.6% for HBcAb, 96.4% for HCVAb and 96.7% for HIVAb.

Among 4046 immigrants screened for HBV, 10.4% was HBsAg positive. HCVAb positivity rate was 3.5% and HIVAb positivity rate was 1.8%. 41.9% of subjects was HBsAg-/HBcAb+. 28 subjects (0.7%) had a multiple infection (9 HBV-HCV, 9 HBV-HIV, 8 HCV-HIV and 2 HBV-HCV-HIV).

HBsAg positivity rate was higher in immigrants coming from sub-Saharan Africa rather than in people from eastern Europe ($p < 0.01$), northern Africa ($p < 0.01$) or Indo-Pakistan area ($p < 0.01$). As well, a HBsAg- /HBcAb+ status was more frequent in subjects from sub-Saharan Africa compared to people coming from northern Africa ($p < 0.01$), eastern Europe ($p < 0.01$), Indo-Pakistan area ($p < 0.01$) and south/central America ($p < 0.009$). HCVAb positivity rate was 4.7% in immigrants from Indo-Pakistan area and from eastern Europe, 3.3% in those from sub-Saharan Africa, 1.5% in those from northern Africa and other asian countries. We found no differences in HCV prevalence based on provenience. Lastly, HIVAb were detected in 60 immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa (2.3%), 5 from eastern Europe (1.3%) and 3 from the Indo-Pakistan area (0.5%).

All subjects found positive for HBV, HCV or HIV serum markers were unaware of their serological condition.

Conclusions: The wide spread of HBV, HCV and HIV infections observed in our population is a warning for the Italian Healthcare Authorities to carry out extensive screening and educational programs, in order to prevent and reduce the risk of transmission of these infections.