

P0097

Paper Poster Session I

Focus: Echinococcus

Screening for cystic echinococcosis: European project implemented in a rural area of Romania

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Objectives

Having in mind the public health importance of cystic echinococcosis (CE) in southern and eastern countries of the European Union, our main objectives are: 1. to disseminate correct information useful in the prevention and control of CE; 2. to identify by ultrasound screening the population affected in endemic rural areas of Romania; 3. to contribute to the creation of the national registry, and finally to an European registry for CE.

Methods

Our team is involved in HERACLES Project (Human cystic Echinococcosis ReseArch in Central and Eastern Societies). We use the protocols established and approved by the Grant agreement for collaborative projects (informed consent, survey rules, ethical rules, etc.). Romania has 42 districts. Based on the clinical and epidemiological data, we have chosen Giurgiu district. Inside the district we have chosen 10 villages. We did prepare the activities and we dedicated 6 full days to examine and discuss with as many as possible villagers from all age groups.

Results

Between 27th June - 4th July, 2014 we applied questionnaires, discussed, and collected informed consents from 1,649 villagers living in Calugareni, Colibasi, Gaujani, Pietrisu, Gogosari, Hulubesti, Mirsa, Singureni, Toporu, Vedea (most from Mirsa village). We examined them using 4 ultrasound equipment and collected blood from 44 suspected CE patients (12 males and 32 females), respecting the project protocols. Most of the cysts were localized in the liver (4 in the kidney, 3 in the spleen, 2 in the peritoneum, 1 retro-peritoneal, and 3 ovarian cysts). Having in mind the WHO classification we registered 10 CL, 16 CE 1, 2 CE 2, 4 CE 3, 12 CE 4, and 7 CE 5 (9 patients had more than one cyst). Most of the cysts had less than 3 cm, but 17 were greater than 5 cm. We found different pathological ultrasound signs in 43.27% females and 43.25% males. All suspected CE patients were invited to our clinic in order to perform more tests, establish the positive diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

Conclusion

The field ultrasound screening allows the team to active highlight CE suspected patients. Searching for CE we can discover more medical conditions and thus we can be useful for people from rural areas without access to the medical system. In just several full working days a dedicated team would be able to present and discuss an important public health problem to more than one thousand citizens. Performing similar surveys and field activities, a team could contribute to the creation of a national and even European registry for a specific, neglected, public health issue.

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