

O331

Abstract (oral session)

Evaluation of systematic screening for imported diseases in immigrant population in Spain five years after its introduction

A. Rodriguez- Guardado*, M. Rodriguez, F. Pérez, N. Morán, M. Martinez, V. Carcaba, J. Carton (Oviedo, ES)

Background: One-third of the world's population is infected with parasites. These infections have the potential to become chronic infections and lead to serious health consequences. This study presents the results of the first 5 years of a screening program. **Methods:** A prospective, descriptive study was designed to include all the immigrants patients attending in Tropical Medicine Unit of Hospital Central de Asturias, Spain, from March 2006 to March 2011. We excluded from the study immigrants classified as visiting friends and relatives, patients lost to follow-up, and/or with incomplete tests as March 2011. Screening for asymptomatic patients comprised blood count, biochemistry, basic urinalysis, HIV, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and HCV serologic analysis, stool parasites, PCR for malaria and Chagas disease serologic analysis. Qualitative variables were compared using the Chi² test, the Fisher exact test, when necessary. For quantitative variables, the Student t test or the Mann-Whitney U test were used. Significance was designated at $p < 0.05$. **Results:** 603 patients were analyzed 66% are immigrant subsaharian and the rest Latin American. The most frequent countries of origin were Equatorial Guinea (26%), Senegal (19%), Ecuador (13%), Bolivia (6%). Mean time in Spain: 1,061 days (3-9,876). Intestinal parasites was diagnosed in 45% of patients: amebiasis (26.3%), strongyloidiasis (16%), schistosomiasis (12.6%), *T. trichuria* (9%), *G. Intestinalis* (5%) and *Uncinaria spp* (4%). Other parasites disease was: Filariasis (14,3%) (*M. Perstans* 9%, *Loa-Loa* 4%, *O. volvulus* 1,3%); Chagas disease (14%), and malaria (4%). A 13.7% of patients had two or more parasites. Four or more parasites was more frequent in subsaharian patients ($p = 0,056$). Latent TB infection (116 cases) occurred more often in sub-Saharan African than Latin American patients ($p = 0,04$). 46 patients (8%) had chronic hepatitis B virus and 21 patients had HCV hepatitis. HIV was diagnosed in 22 patients (3,8%), more frequent in subsharian patients ($p = 0,017$). 10% of patients had latent syphilis. 188 were asymptomatic and 99 (53%) were from sub-Saharan Africa ($p = 0,001$). In 55 (9%) patients the screening didn't showed any disease, 21 subsharians ($p = 0,005$) **Conclusions:** Systematic screening programs of imported diseases show a high diagnostic yield (91%), even in asymptomatic patients. It is most useful in sub-Saharan immigrant population where rates of poliparasitation are significantly higher.