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ePoster Viewing

Parasitic disease epidemiology

Cystic echinococcosis, a neglected disease to be better investigated in a rural area of Romania

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Background: The data regarding cystic echinococcosis (CE) in our country are not entirely relevant to the real incidence and prevalence for this disease. Our objectives were: to evaluate the real epidemiological data, to disseminate correct prevention and control information, to contribute to the creation of the national registry and to a European registry for CE.

Material/methods: We are part of the HERACLES Project (Human cystic Echinococcosis ReseArch in Central and Eastern Societies). We used all the protocols established and approved in HERACLES Project. Out of Romania 42 districts we have chosen Vaslui district, in which 7 villages were chosen for clinical, epidemiological, imagistic and laboratory screening.

Results: In one week time period, in 2015, we discussed and applied questionnaires, collected informed consents from 1,362 villagers (969 females) living in Copaceana, Falciu, Moara Domneasca, Poganesti, Stanilesti, Tacuta and Valeni. We examined the villagers using 4 ultrasound equipment and collected blood from 21 suspected CE patients (5 males and 15 females), and 49 controls. Most of the cysts were localized in the liver. More data (dimensions of the cysts, WHO classification, and co-morbidities) will be presented. All suspected CE patients were invited to our clinic in order to perform more tests, establish the positive diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

Conclusions: An active search by ultrasound screening is needed, in order to quantify the real burden of this disease. Searching for CE we can discover more medical conditions and help the people from rural areas without access to the medical system. The preventive medicine activities such as training and dissemination are very important to raise awareness on this neglected parasitic disease. Performing these activities we can contribute to the creation of the national and the European registry for CE.

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