

**P1411**

**Paper Poster Session**

**Hepatitis B vaccination and transmission**

### **Hepatitis B in HIV patients in Chile – a cross-sectional multicentre study**

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**Background:** Coinfection of HIV and hepatitis B virus (HBV) is an important public health problem contributing to the emerging burden of hepatic mortality in the HIV infected population worldwide. It is estimated that about 10% of all HIV patients suffer chronic HBV infection, but rates vary geographically depending on various factors such as risks for HIV/HBV transmission, implementation of HBV vaccination programs, and levels of endemicity in the general population. Asia and Africa are regions with high coinfection rates in comparison to Europe, North America and Australia. In South America, the magnitude of this problem is uncertain since in most countries, including Chile, systematic studies are lacking. Our study aimed to analyze the epidemiology of HBV infection in HIV infected adults attending public and private health centers in Santiago, Chile.

**Material/methods:** The cross-sectional multicenter study included a public university hospital (Fundación Arriarán, FA) and a private health center (Clínica Alemana Santiago, CAS) in Santiago, Chile. Blood samples were drawn to determine serological markers of hepatitis B (HBsAg, Anti-HBs, Anti-HBc total, HBeAg, Anti-HBe) using ELISA (Elecsys®, Cobas e411, Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany). Demographic, clinical and laboratory data were obtained from medical records. The study was approved by the respective ethics committees. Prevalence values were calculated using the VassarStats (<http://vassarstats.net>).

**Results:** 399 patients (FA, 353; CAS, 46) were included. 7.2% were women. The median age was 38.3 years (interquartile range [IQR] 31.4 to 47.5). 99.4% acquired HIV through sexual contact (82.7% men who have sex with men, 16.7% heterosexual). 15.1% of participants had AIDS and 96.4% were on ART. In 78.9%, HIV viral load was undetectable (<40 cps/mL) and median CD4 cell count was 499 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> (IQR 349-663). A total of 37.6% of patients were susceptible to HBV and 5.8% were chronically infected; 49.4% had suffered HBV infection, 11.7% of those had chronic infection (Table). The percentage of patients, who were vaccinated, was higher in the private health system.

**Conclusions:** With 5.8%, the rate of chronic HBV infection was low compared to other non-industrialized regions, but higher than in South American countries such as Brazil and Argentina. Our study demonstrated that a very high percentage of HIV patients in Chile were susceptible to HBV but not vaccinated, especially patients without access to the private health system.