

P0861 **Watch and wait approach for inactive echinococcal cysts of the liver: an update.**

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**Background:** Human cystic echinococcosis (CE) is a chronic and complex infection. The WHO Informal Working Group on Echinococcosis recommends a stage-specific approach for the management of hepatic cyst and suggests expectant management (Watch and Wait) for uncomplicated, inactive liver cysts. Here we report the outcome of this approach in CE4 and CE5 cysts of the liver seen in our center from 1991- 2017.

**Materials/methods:** We searched in our electronic archive clinical records of patients, with exclusively uncomplicated hepatic cysts that were CE4/CE5 at the time of the first diagnosis (i.e. had reached spontaneous inactivation), seen from January 1991 until November 2017 in our center. The patients included had a follow-up with abdominal ultrasound of at least 24 months and serology tests performed every 6-12 months.

**Results:** Fifty-two patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria, 16 (30.8%) males and 36 (69.2%) females, (mean age: 50 years). A total of 65 cysts were monitored, 39 (60.9%) CE4 and 25 (39.1%) CE5, (mean diameter 53 mm). The mean follow-up was 73.9 months (range 24-453). In 98.1% of patients, the cysts remained inactive over time and in only one case (1.9%) a reactivation was observed (from CE4 to CE3b stage). No complications were recorded during the follow-up. Serology tests (IHA and ELISA) remained negative during the follow-up period in 28 (53.8%) and 35 (67.3%) patients respectively. IHA and ELISA became negative in 9 (17.3%) and 10 (19.2%) patients respectively during the follow-up period. Only in one patient (1,9%) did ELISA test become positive during follow-up.

**Conclusions:** In over 98% of patients, spontaneously inactive, uncomplicated liver cysts remained stable, without any need for of treatment. Our data confirm that in carefully selected patients, watch and wait is the best approach to clinical management of hepatic CE.