

**00181 Cystic echinococcosis in Vicenza: tracking an imported neglected disease**Maria Teresa Giordani\*<sup>1</sup>, Ambra Vola<sup>2</sup>, Raffaella Lissandrin<sup>3,2</sup>

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**Background:** Cystic Echinococcosis (CE) is a neglected zoonosis also endemic in Italy, but no autochthonous human cases have been reported in North-Eastern Italy, where CE is an emerging disease among immigrants, especially from North Africa and Eastern Europe. In August 2012 the Infectious Disease Department of San Bortolo Hospital, Vicenza joined the European Register of Cystic Echinococcosis (ERCE) (<http://www.heracles-fp7.eu/erce.html>) and the linked EchinoBioBank. This work outlines this single center experience on CE management using data retrieved from ERCE.

**Materials/methods:** CE patients who accessed the Infectious Disease Department from August 2012 to November 2018 were searched in the ERCE database and their demographics and clinical data were collected.

**Results:** In the study period, 26 CE patients were recorded in the register, 16 (61.5%) males and 10 (38.5%) females, mean age 39.8 years (range 9-61). Six patients (23.1%) were born in Italy, mostly in the South (Sicily 66.7%) while 20 (76.9%) were immigrants from the highly endemic areas of Eastern Europe and North Africa (n=10, 38.5% and n=7, 26.9%, respectively). Those patients had 50 cysts, 31 (62%) located in the liver, 9 (18%) in the bones, 5 (10%) in the abdominal cavity, 2 (4%) in the spleen, and 1 (2%) in the lung, subcutaneous tissue and muscle. CE4-CE5 and CE3b cysts were most frequently observed (n=16, 32% and n=8, 16% respectively). Fourteen patients were managed by "Watch and Wait", 3 were treated with albendazole (ABZ) alone, and 1 with percutaneous treatment + ABZ; 8 patients were treated with surgery and ABZ.

**Conclusions:** The majority of CE patients seen in our non-endemic area are immigrants. Almost one third of the cysts were inactive and treated with a conservative approach. A stage-specific approach should be implemented in all centers where CE patients are managed. ERCE collects clinically reliable data on this neglected condition and should be joined by all centers where these patients are seen.

