PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND MONITORING OF THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS IN THE MOBILE SCREENING UNIT "SAÚDE + PERTO"

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Abstract Background

- Liga Portuguesa Contra a SIDA (LPCS) was founded in 1990 and since then provides care and support to People Living with HIV, Hepatitis and/or other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).

- LPCS main project regarding Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of these infections is Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) “Saúde + Perto”.

- MSU aims to provide easy access to testing, counselling, diagnosis, care and treatment among key populations (MSM, Drug Users, Homeless people, Sex Workers and their clients, and Immigrants).

Abstract Method

- This mobile unit goes through the councils of Lisboa, Loures, and Odivelas performing health screenings for HIV, Hepatitis B and C and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). These screenings are all free of charge, confidential, and anonymous.

- The MSU has a multidisciplinary team composed by: a doctor, a psychologist, a technical of screening analyses, and mediator.
Abstract Results

From 1/10/2014 to 31/03/2023, 10587 patients performed a screening session at the MSU: 5938 (56%) men, 4628 (43.7%) women and 21 (0.2%) transgenders, with an average age of 41.3 years (SD=16.0), with 87% accepting an HCV screening session.

From 9183 HCV screening sessions, 524 patients had reactive results (88% accepted referral, 89% of these had an appointment, 374 patients confirmed diagnosis; 13% had antibody due to previous infection.

From 93% patients who started treatment (n=212), 13% abandoned therapy. From 242 patients who completed treatment, 206 are cured.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reactive</th>
<th>Referral</th>
<th>Confirmed Presence Hospital</th>
<th>Confirmed Diagnosis</th>
<th>Antibody due to previous infections</th>
<th>Abandoned treatment</th>
<th>Cured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>524</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4.1%)</td>
<td>(88%)</td>
<td>(89.4%)</td>
<td>(87.6%)</td>
<td>(13.4%)</td>
<td>(13%)</td>
<td>(85.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract Conclusion

Considering the synergy between STIs, co-infections between HCV and other STI were analysed. 96 patients had reactive screening for HCV and at least one other STI (18% reactive HCV). Of these 82 people, 45% live with this STI and HIV. More than 50% of these HCV infections belong to patients from key populations: 31.9% are Drug Users, 19.7% are Homeless People.
CONTACTS

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