

THE EVALUATION OF PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES REQUIRES TOOLS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE DIAGNOSIS OF VIRAL HEPATITIS AND HIV

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Background:

The prevalence of viral hepatitis is higher in patients with a sexually transmitted disease (STD). The WHO recommends ruling out the existence of a secondary STD and concomitant viral hepatitis in all people with a suspected STD. Objective: To evaluate the diagnosis of viral hepatitis in subjects suspected of having a STD.

Methods:

Review of STD studies (syphilis, *T.vaginalis*, *C.trachomatis*, *M.genitalum*, and *N.gonorrhoeae*) to assess the performance of diagnostic tests for hepatitis B/C, and HIV in those with a sample for STD diagnosis, between April 2019-September 2022 from our Microbiology Department

Results:

We found 157,185 serology determinations against syphilis and/or exudates against STD. Of 49,664 serologies for the study of syphilis, anti-HCV serology was determined in 62.3% of the cases; in 1535 subjects with syphilis, an anti-HCV prevalence of 2.4% was detected; HBsAg was requested in 82.6%, detecting 21 positive cases (1.4% prevalence in patients with anti-treponemal antibodies). Finally, anti-HIV was evaluated in 89.3% of the requests for syphilis, being positive in 9.2%. Determination of HBsAg, anti-HCV and HIV serology in subjects with other STD were respectively: 1) *T.vaginalis* (27,924 samples): 1.6% of the cases had a study for HBsAg; 1% for HCV and 1.6% for HIV. 2) *C.trachomatis* (6,018 samples): 2.2%, 2.3% and 2.7% had an HBV, HCV and HIV study, respectively; 3) *M.genitalum* (4,879 samples): 1.9%, 2.1% and 2.5% had an HBV, HCV and HIV study respectively. 4) *N.gonorrhoeae* (5,978): 2.2%, 2.3% and 2.7% had an HBV, HCV and HIV study respectively.

Conclusion:

In subjects with suspected syphilis there is an underdiagnosis of viral hepatitis and HIV. The absence of a diagnostic study to exclude a concomitant infection by viral hepatitis is the rule in the rest of the STD studies. These results highlight the need to implement tools for a comprehensive diagnosis of viral hepatitis in this setting.

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