

## **MICRO ELIMINATION OF HEPATITIS C IN ACTIVE DRUG USERS POPULATION ADMITED FOR DETOXICATION IN A UNIT FOR DRUG USERS**

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### **Background:**

In Portugal, it is estimated 45,000 patients with undiagnosed hepatitis C (HCV) and the prevalence of antibodies to HCV (anti-HCV) in drug users currently reaches 59%, with an estimated incidence of 10%. In injecting consumers, the prevalence of anti-HCV reaches 88% and the incidence is around 52%. There are no conclusive studies about the true dimension of hepatitis C and its treatment, in drug user's population in Portugal.

The aim of our study is to: identify patients with positive anti-HCV; refer them to the CHUC Infectious Service, when treatment is indicated; improve the level of health literacy on hepatitis C; and, prevent risky behavior.

### **Methods:**

This study in partnership with CHUC focused on a total of 848 patients hospitalized at the UDC between January/2015, the year of the first treatments with direct antiviral drugs, and December/2021. First, we proceeded a retrospective analyse of all the clinical processes of hospitalized patients (until October 2020) to identify the presence of a positive anti-HCV.

Additionally, in patients admitted at the UDC, since October 2020 with anti-HCV+, we collected blood samples for RNA research and referral for consultation and treatment when indicated.

### **Results:**

719 patients until October/2020 (18% women); 324 (45%) were anti-HCV+ (18.2% were women); 49 (15.12%) completed HCV treatment between 2015-2021.

After October 2020, 129 patients were studied until the end of 2021, of which 55 (42.63%) tested anti-HCV+, of which 21.7% were women. All positives were referred to the Infectious service and 17 (29%) of these had detectable RNA.

The research is ongoing.

### **Conclusion:**

From 2020, in a systematic way, we identified all the patients with anti-HCV+ and referred for consultation of infectious diseases. Direct impact on the identification of users who need treatment, facilitating the circuit of care provided, contributing to the objective of eradicating hepatitis C.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

The authors recognize the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We declare there is no conflict of interest to report.