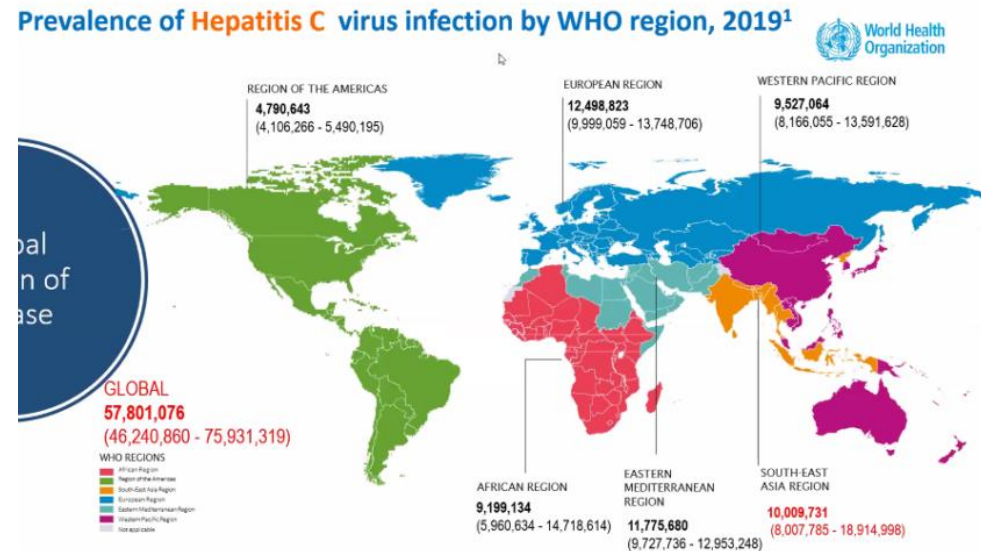


A low rate of individuals are screened for hepatitis C in primary care centers in Barcelona

Elena Vargas-Accarino¹, Ariadna Rando², Ingrid Arcusa³, Eva de Diego⁴, Núria García⁵, Elena Monserrat⁶, Marta Selvi⁷, María Asunción Úbeda⁴, Imma Valls⁸, Carla Ventosa⁹, Adriana Palom¹, Judit Vico-Romero¹, Juan Carlos Ruiz^{1,10,11}, Mar Riveiro^{1,10,11,12}, Rafael Esteban^{1,10,11,12}, María Buti^{1,10,11,12}

1. Liver Diseases Research Group. Vall d'Hebron Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain. 2. Microbiology and Biochemistry Department, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. 3. CAP Trinitat Vella, Barcelona, Spain. 4. CAP Horta, Barcelona, Spain. 5. CAP Río de Janeiro, Barcelona, Spain. 6. CAP Chafarinas, Barcelona, Spain. 7. CAP Sant Andreu, Barcelona, Spain. 8. CAP San Rafael, Barcelona, Spain. 9. CAP Guineueta, Barcelona, Spain. 10. Liver Unit. Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. 11. Medicine Department, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, España. 12. CIBERehd, enfermedades hepáticas y digestivas, Madrid, Spain.

Introduction



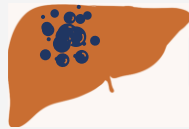
“WHO strategy aims to eliminate viral hepatitis C as a public health problem by **reducing new viral hepatitis infections by 90%** and reduce deaths due to viral hepatitis by 65% by 2030”¹



90% of HCV cases must be diagnosed and 80% cases treated

Introduction

HCV infection is
a major cause of
chronic liver disease



and one of the leading causes of
hepatocellular carcinoma in
Europe²

Simple pangenotypic
direct-acting antiviral regimens
allow most patients to be **cured**



with minimal pretreatment and
on-treatment monitoring³

Undiagnosed

and

Untreated

patients could be the critical
population to achieve HCV
elimination

2. Spearman CW, et al. Lancet. 2019;394:1451-66.

3. Weisberg IS, et al. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2017;18:535-43

Introduction

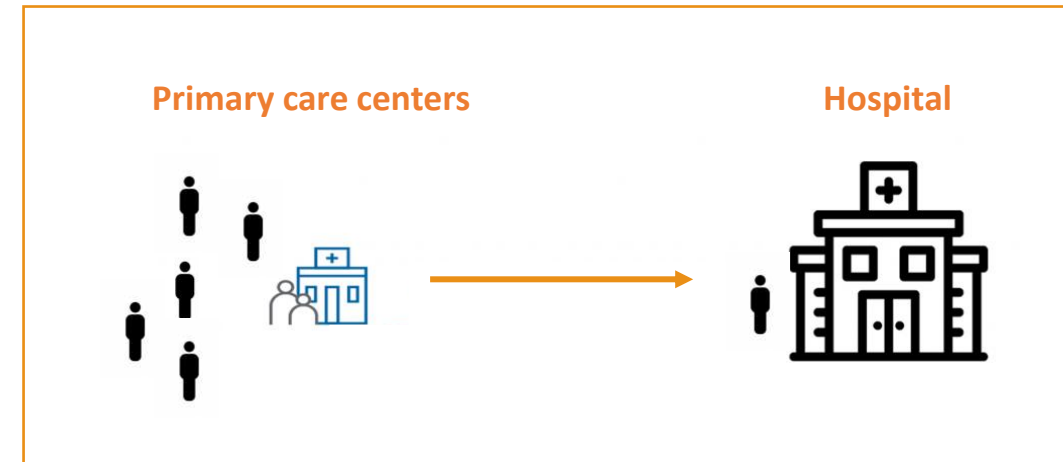
HCV screening

Spanish and international screening guidelines recommendations⁴:

- Screening by risk factors
- Screening by clinical signs suggestive of hepatitis C



Little data are available on Spanish screening recommendation application and on the HCV testing rates



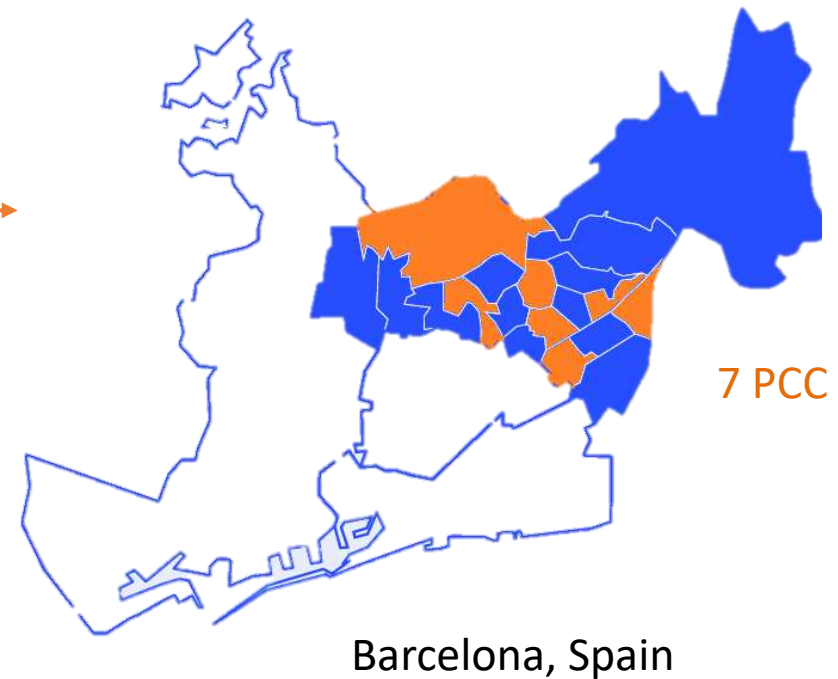
Objectives

- Assess the percentage of individuals screened for hepatitis C in primary care centers (PCC)
- Assess the rates of HCV detection in these individuals and link patients to care
- Evaluate hepatitis C screening guidelines application

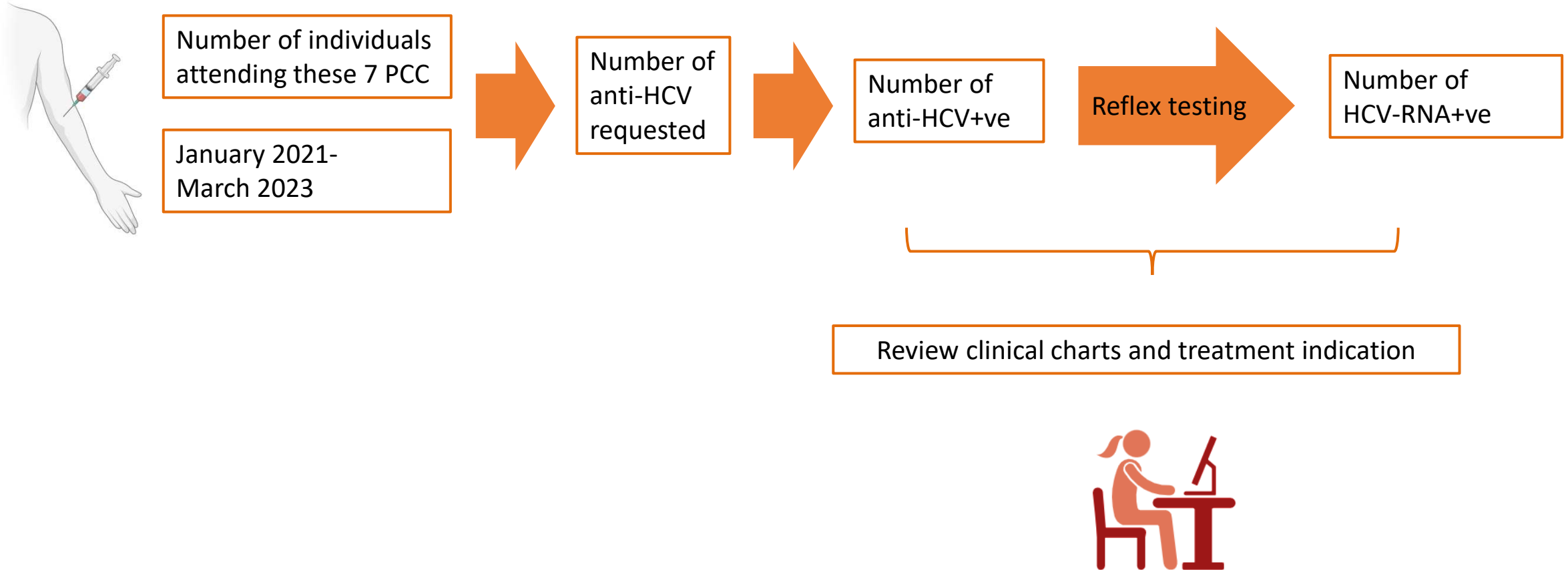
Methods

Vall d'Hebron laboratory → northern area of Barcelona
(450,000 inhabitants)

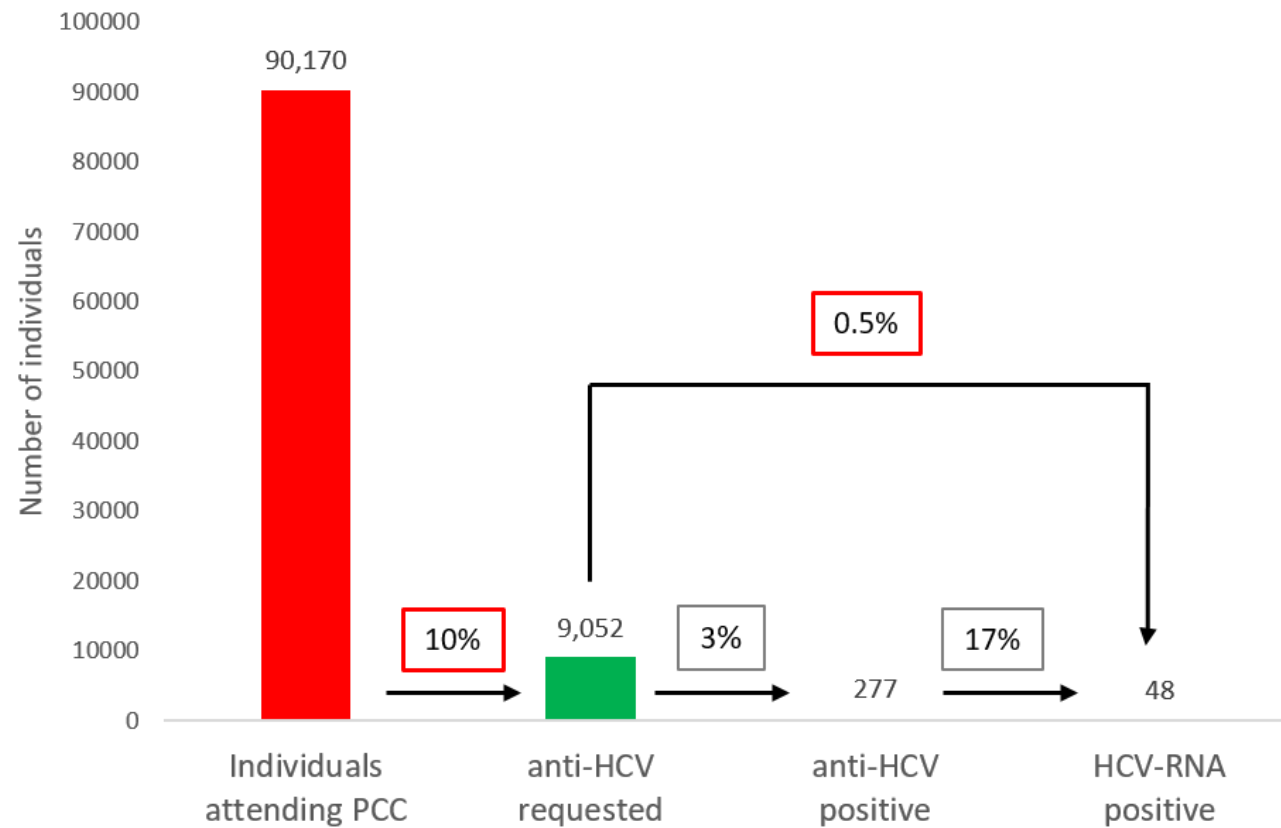
- 16 primary care centers
- 3 drug addiction centers
- 1 academic hospital



Methods



Individuals attending and tested for HCV in PCC

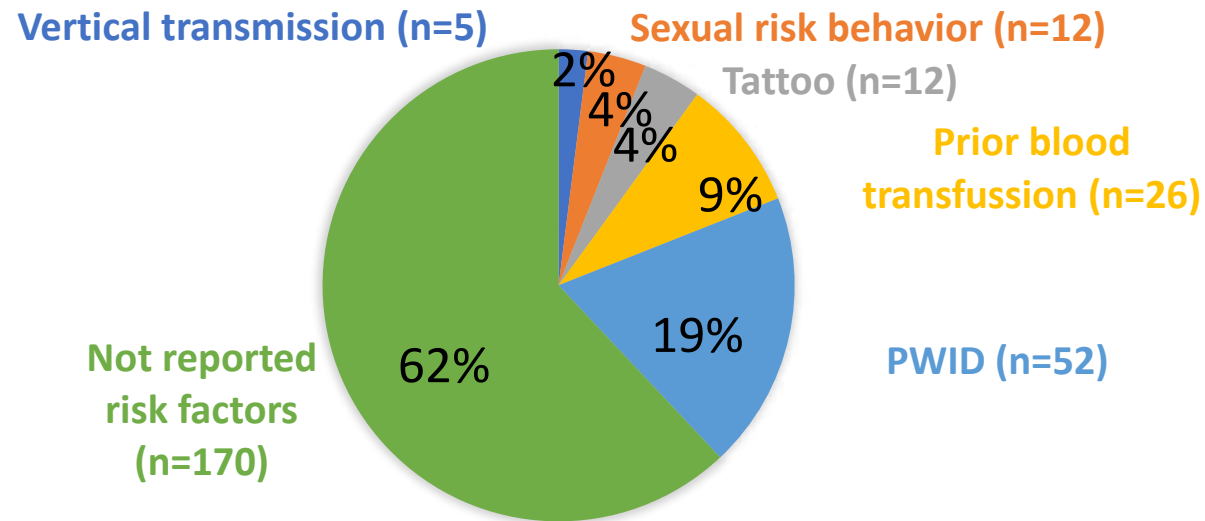


Demographical and laboratory characteristics

Parameters	Anti-HCV+ve (n=277)	HCV-RNA+ve (n=48)	p-value
Gender, male	152 (55%)	29 (60%)	0,53
Age, median	59 +/- 15.2 years	69 +/- 22.6 years	0,0043
Born in Spain	195 (70%)	34 (71%)	0,99
Laboratory parameters			
AST (IU/L)	31 +/- 31.6	41 +/- 24.7 IU/L	0,035
ALT (IU/L)	29 +/- 20.45	47 +/- 39.5 IU/L	0,024
Fibrosis			
FIB-4	2.2 +/- 11.6	2.1 +/- 1.36	0,85
APRI	0.4 +/- 0.5	0.6 +/- 0.42	0,45

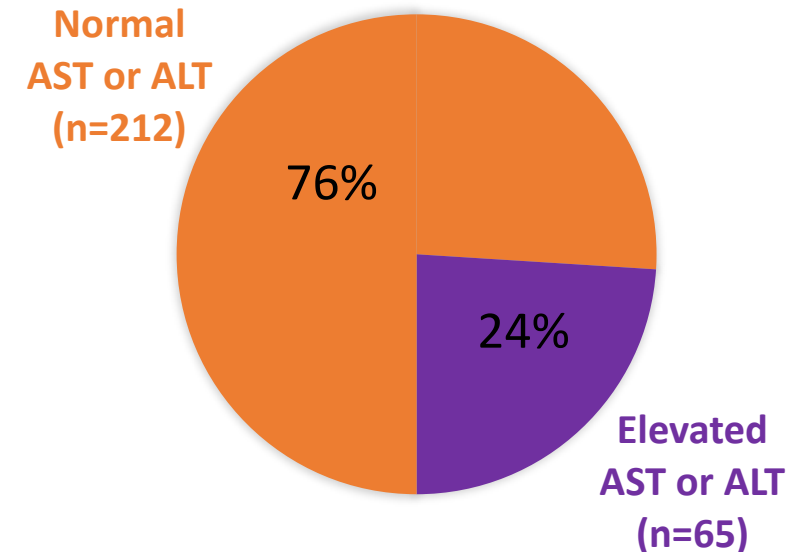
Criteria for screening following guidelines (n=277)

1. HCV risk factors



170 individuals (62%) did not report risk factors

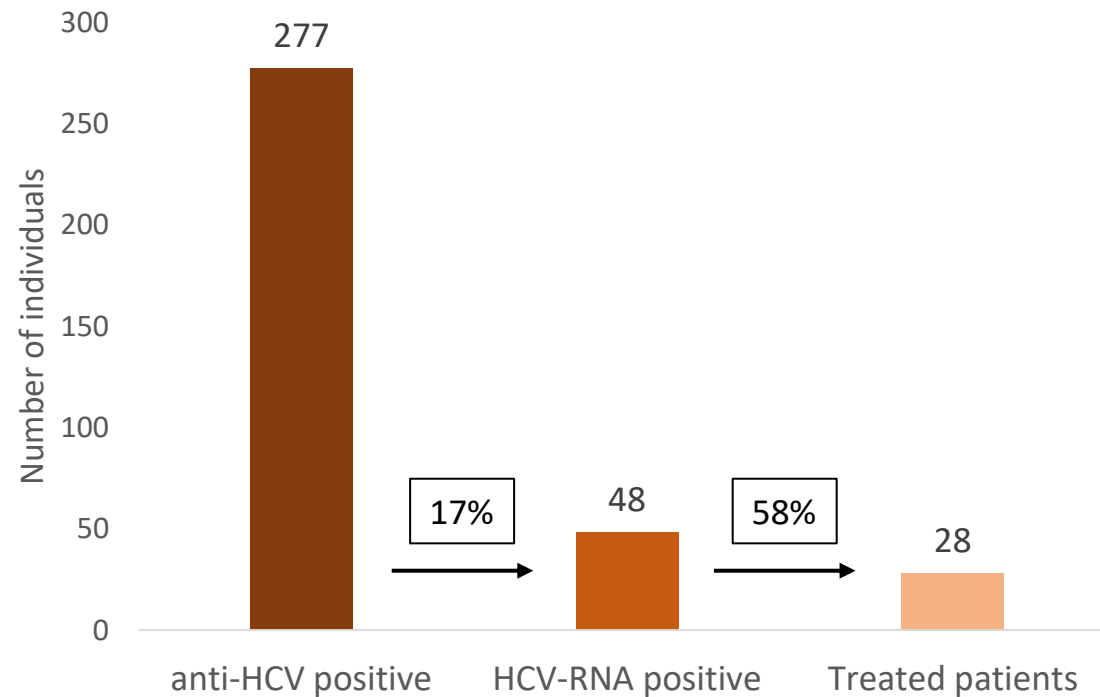
2. Elevated transaminases



65 individuals (25%) had elevated transaminases

150 anti-VHC+ individuals (54%) neither reported risk factors nor had elevated transaminases

Treatment indication for HCV (n=48)



48 individuals HCV-RNA+:

- 28 individuals treated
- 14 individuals no treatment candidates due to comorbidities
- 6 individuals moved to another region and LTFU

From the 28 individuals who started DAA treatment, 11 (40%) had a fibrosis stage of F3-4 and 1 individual had decompensated liver disease

Conclusions

- 10% of patients attending primary care centers are screened for Hepatitis C, being viremic 0,5% of these patients (this rate is the double prevalence than observed in the general population⁴).
- Following guidelines 150 anti-VHC+ individuals (54%) neither reported risk factors nor had elevated transaminases, so they would not have been screened for hepatitis C if following guidelines of only screen by risk factors and elevated transaminases.
- HCV universal screening in PCC could be a good strategy to eliminate hepatitis C

Thank you very much for your attention!