



Current status of hepatitis delta in Andalusia: Multicenter study.

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INTRODUCTION

Chronic hepatitis delta (CHD) is the most severe form of chronic hepatitis, associated with high morbidity and mortality due to its high risk of developing cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Its prevalence is unknown, but it is believed to affect around 5% of patients with hepatitis B in Spain.

However, this percentage may vary, possibly influenced by migration from countries with higher prevalence. The development of new therapeutic alternatives could modify the management of this infection.

OBJETIVE

Our aim was to analyze the current state of diagnosis of CHD in hospitals in the autonomous community of Andalusia and describe the profile of patients with chronic infection by active Hepatitis Delta Virus (HDV).

METHODS

Multicenter, retrospective study, in which the diagnostic workflow of hepatitis delta in the 17 participating centers has been analyzed. HBsAg-positive patients, with anti-delta antibodies and detection of HDV RNA, have been included. In patients with active HDV infection, demographic and clinical variables have been analyzed.



RESULTS

Between January 2018 to October 2022, 18,583 HBsAg positive patients have been detected; of these, IgG anti-HDV was performed in 3436 patients (18%); 205 patients (5.9%) of those were anti-HDV positive; of these, HDV RNA was performed in 158 (77%) and finally, 69 patients (43.6%) were RNA-HDV positive, 1.9% of VHD determinations. Regarding the profile of our 69 viremic patients, 69% were men, with an average age of 50 years, 47% were immigrants. 37% had HIV or HCV coinfection and 21% history of drug use. 39% of patients had cirrhosis and of them, 6 patients had developed hepatocellular carcinoma, 21% of all viremic patients had presented some episode of decompensation, most of them ascites. 27% had portal hypertension. 40% of patients had been treated with interferon and 6 patients had been transplanted.

JANUARY 2018-OCTOBER 2022
18,583 HBsAg positive patients

IgG anti-HDV was performed in 3436 patients (18%)

↓ Of these

anti-HDV **positive**: 205 patients (5.9%)

↓ Of these

RNA-HDV was performed in 158 pacientes (77%)

↓

Finally, 69 patients were RNA-HDV **positive**

(1.9% of VHD determinations)

69 PATIENTS RNA-HDV POSITIVE

- 69% men, average age 50 years
- 47% immigrants
- 16% HIV + HCV coinfection
- 17% HCV coinfection
- 19% HIV coinfection
- 21% history of drug use
- 39% cirrhosis: 6 patients HCC
- 21% decompensation (ascites)
- 27% portal hypertension
- 40% has been treated with IFN
- 6 had been transplanted.

CONCLUSIONS

The prevalence of anti-HDV positive patients in Andalusia in HBsAg positive patients is 6% and 40% are viremic patients. However, HDV serology has only been performed in 18% of HBsAg-positive patients.

The epidemiological profile of patients with active HDV infection has changed as almost half of the patients are immigrants, however, their morbidity remains high. With the new treatment options for HDV, and considering the benefits that the diagnosis of HDV can currently bring, its implementation in the autonomous community of Andalusia seems necessary.

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