SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

SANT PAU
Campus Salut
Barcelona

Abstract No: [62]

Josep M Guardiola*, Miriam Soriano, Elisenda Miró
Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Emergency, Barcelona, Spain

Background

Hepatitis C (HCV) globally affects 1% of the world population and continues to be a frequent and preventable cause of liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. The Emergency Department (ER), together with the hospital's Microbiology Department have promoted and HCV screening project to detect hidden infection following the recommendations of the Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver for elimination of the hepatitis C virus (AEEH).

Objectives

Early detection is key to treatment, cure and preventing the possible spread of the virus. EDs can be defined as an ideal place for access to HCV diagnosis, including vulnerable groups that do not usually attend Primary Care circuits.

Methods

The diagnosis of the disease is made by means of HCV serology in all patients over 50 years of age who come to the ER for any reason and who require a blood test. In case of obtaining a positive serology, the active viral infection is identified by performing a PCR test to detect Hepatitis C Virus RNA. Patients give their oral consent to perform this determination.

Results

During the period (from October 3, 2022 to January 31, 2023), 1,789 serologies were performed: 66 samples with positive HCV serology were detected (3.70%), corresponding to patients with a mean age of 68. We obtained 12 patients with active HCV infection (12/66; 18.2%), with an overall incidence of 0.67% (12/1789). 100% of patients with active infection are eligible for medical treatment (one patient rejects it). 6 patients have already accessed HCV treatment to eradicate the disease. The actualized results are show in figure 1.

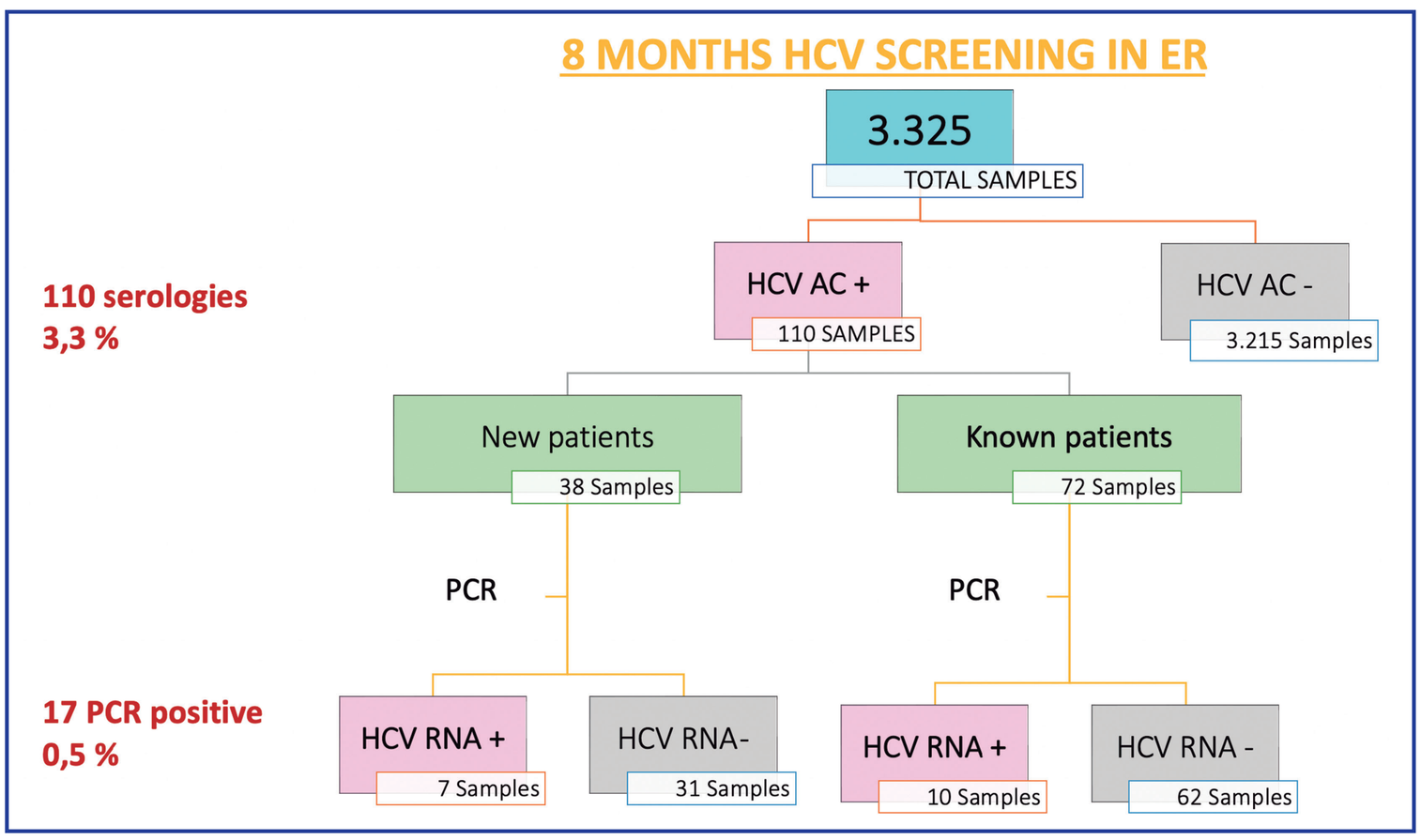

Figure 1.

Conclusions

The HCV screening project in the ED shows results that justify the development of the study. Following the AEEH recommendations seems to be a cost-effective strategy to detect patients with hidden HCV infection. In figure 2. We show the comparative results between global HCV incidence and ER incidence.

	OUR STUDY IN ER	STUDY "MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD": GLOBAL POBLATION
YEAR	2022-2023	2017-2018
AGE RANGE	50– 85 años	20 – 80 años
TOTAL SAMPLES	3325	100.000
RNA HCV +	0,5% (17/3325)	**0,22%**
GLOBAL HCV SEROLOGY INCIDENCE	3,3% (110/3325)	3,3%

Figure 2.