

Hepatitis C virus screening strategies implemented in an emergency department and first results

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INTRODUCTION

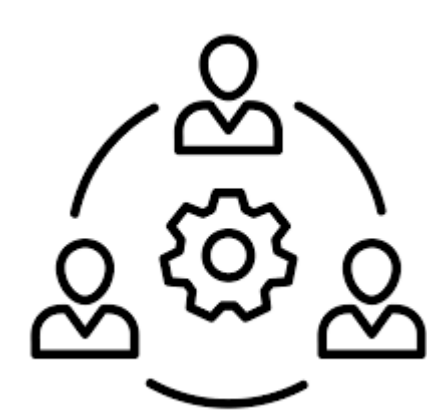
Following the worldwide healthcare strategies against viral hepatitis for 2022-2030, the World Health Organization (WHO) has set the global goal to eradicate hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection by 2030. There are still undiagnosed patients who are unaware of their status, so their detection through screening strategies is indispensable. Emergency departments (ED) represent an opportunity to improve HCV screening.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project is to develop a multidisciplinary screening programme in the ED of our hospital, in order to detect the maximum number of patients and achieve future automation.

METHODS

An **interdisciplinary collaboration** was established for:



- Training the ED medical and nursing team on requesting and performing serologies.
- Computer experts facilitate a pre-configured HCV serology request, and are working on its automation.
- Information and communication campaigns are carried out periodically.

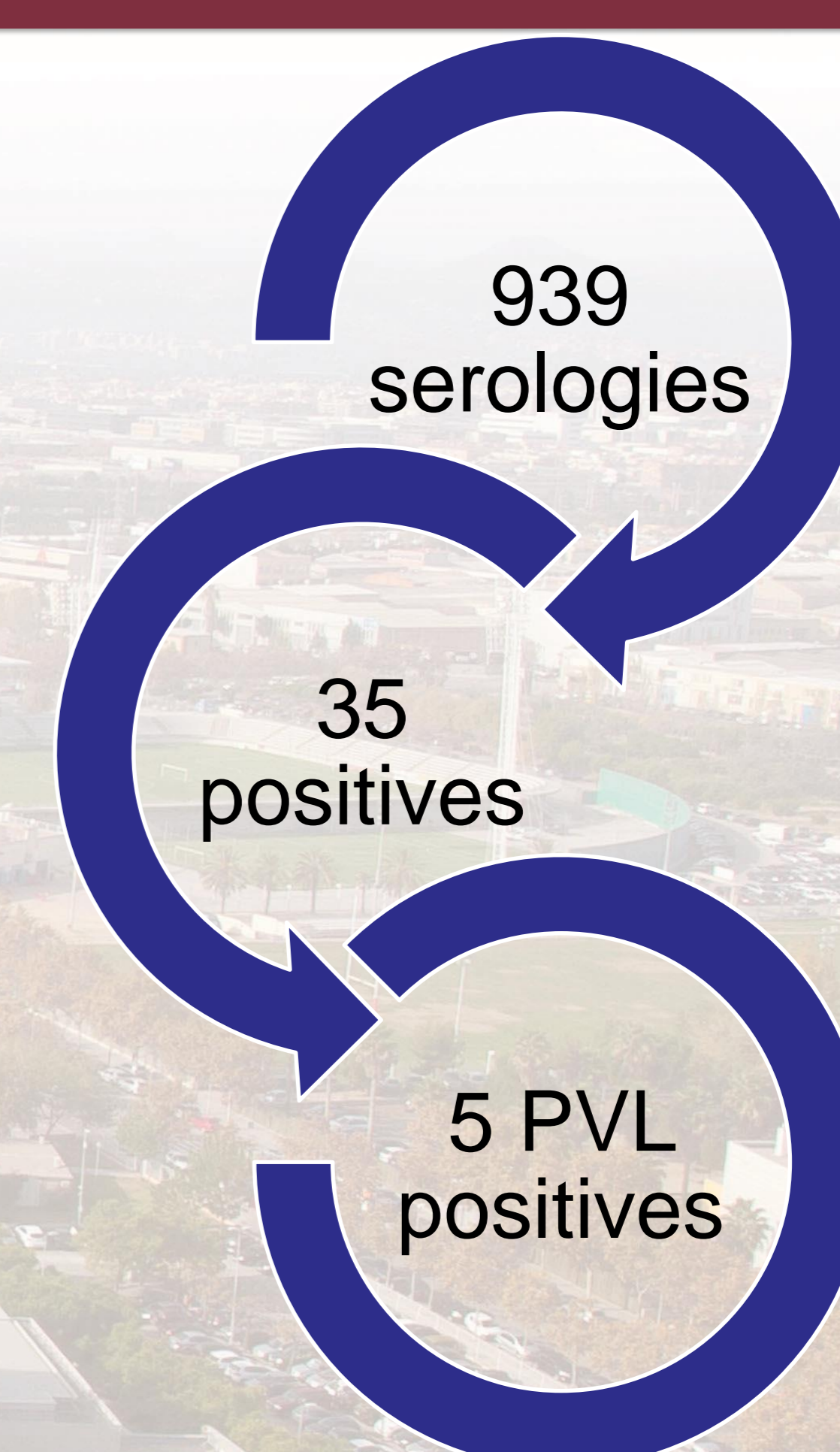
Target population: patients aged 30-70 years who consult the ED and for whom an analysis is requested according to routine clinical practice.

Circuit: Project staff inform patients of the positive results and will refer them to a Gastroenterology consultation, who will decide on subsequent care.

RESULTS

RESULTS OF THREE MONTHS OF SCREENING PROGRAMME (June-August 2023):

- The screening programme started on June 1, 2023.
- 939 serologies were requested (average of 10 per day).
- 35 (3.7%) resulted positive, and 5 (0.53%) presented positive viral load (PVL).
- **All patients with a PVL were linked to a first Gastroenterology consultation.**



CONCLUSIONS

The opportunistic screening programme in the ED has achieved full linkage to Gastroenterology consultations for 100% of patients with HCV PVL.

Automating the process will help to increase the number of patients screened.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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