Country Case Study: Spain

EuroTEST
Working together for integrated testing and earlier care
Addressing Hepatitis, HIV, STIs and TB

Patient information

Overview

This case study describes experince from an opt-out Hepatitis C (HCV) testing programme implemented in the Emergency Department (ED) of Torrecárdenas University Hospital (HUT), Almería, Spain.

When implementing opt-out screening programmes, clear and accessible patient information is essential to ensure that individuals understand the purpose of testing, the implications of positive results, and their right to decline participation.

Approach

The study team developed an informative video presentation on HCV including information on:

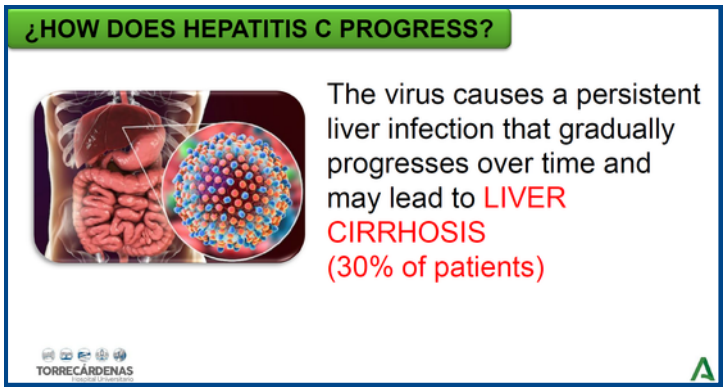
- Symptoms
- Routes of transmission
- ED screening strategy, and available treatment

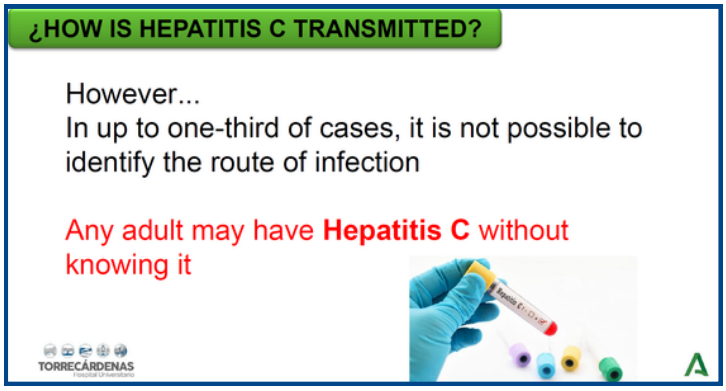
The video was continuously shown on screens in ED waiting rooms, enhancing patient education and reinforcing transparency.

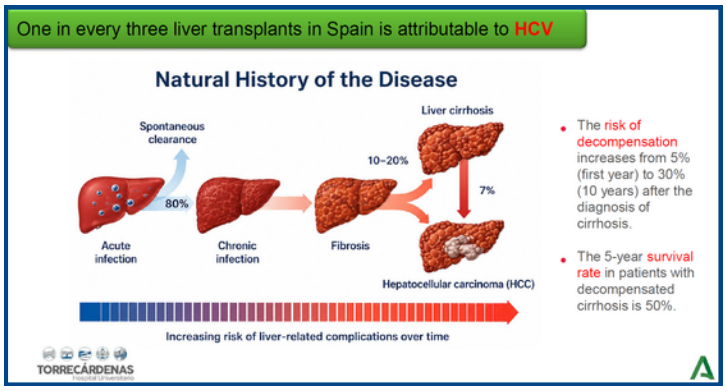
Lessons learned

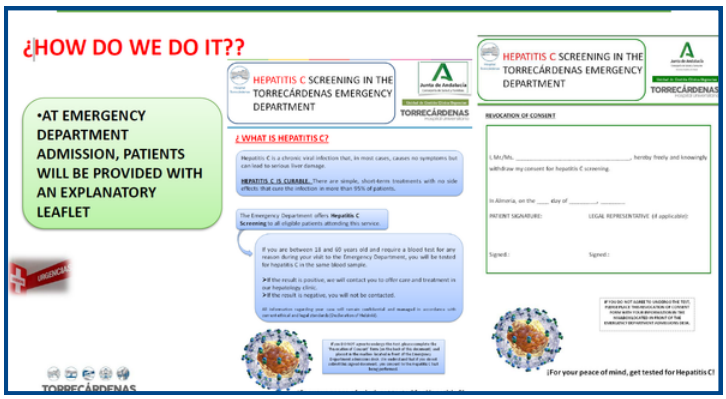
Integrating screening into routine workflows using remnant blood samples and a simple opt-out approach enabled implementation without disrupting ED activity.

Providing patient information materials ensured consistent communication about HCV and supported workflow integration by delivering key information at registration without disrupting emergency department activity.









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Source

Camelo-Castillo A, Jordán Madrid T, Cabezas Fernández T, Rodríguez-Maresca M, Duarte Carazo A, Carrodeguas A, Medina D, García F, Casado-Martín M. Opportunistic screening for hepatitis C virus infection in an emergency department in Almeria, Spain. Emergencias. 2024 Jan;36(1):25-32. English, Spanish. doi: 10.55633/s3me/03.2023. PMID: 38318739.

The HCV opt-out screening programme at Torrecárdenas University Hospital was implemented within the framework of the FOCUS public health programme and model, an initiative that supports the implementation of blood-borne virus testing and linkage-to-care strategies in Spain and Portugal.