

## CO-05. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRENDS OF HIV/HCV COINFECTION IN SPAIN, 2015-2021

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**Objectives:** We assessed the prevalence of anti-hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibodies and active HCV infection (HCV-RNA-positive) in people with HIV (PWH) in Spain in 2021 and compared the results with those of five similar studies performed during 2015-2019.

**Methods:** The study was performed in 41 centers. The sample size was estimated for an accuracy of 0.75%. Patients were selected by random sampling with proportional allocation.

**Results:** The reference population in 2021 comprised 46,059 PWH, and the sample size was 1,421. HCV serostatus was known in 1,406 (98.9%), of whom 398 (28.3%) were HCV antibody (Ab)-positive (72.1% were prior injection drug users and 11.8% men having sex with men). Of these 398 PWH, 320 cleared HCV after anti-HCV therapy, 65 cleared HCV spontaneously, 12 were HCV-RNA-positive, and 1 had unknown HCV-RNA. The prevalence of HCV-RNA-positive was, therefore, 0.85% (95%CI 0.44-1.49). Of the 12 HCV-RNA-positive PWH, HCV was acquired within the previous 12 months in 2. Besides, 5 of these 12 patients were already on anti-HCV therapy or programmed to start it. Cirrhosis was present in 4.2% of PWH overall, 18.4% of those who cleared HCV after anti-HCV therapy, and 0% of HCV-RNA-positive PWH. A summary of the main findings in the six national cross-sectional studies is shown in the table.

**Conclusions:** In Spain, the prevalence of active HCV infection among PWH at the end of 2021 was 0.85%, i.e., 96.1% lower than in 2015. Increased exposure to DAAs was probably the main reason for this sharp reduction. Despite these advances toward the micro elimination of HCV in

this population group, liver cirrhosis remains of concern among those who cured the infection with anti-HCV therapy