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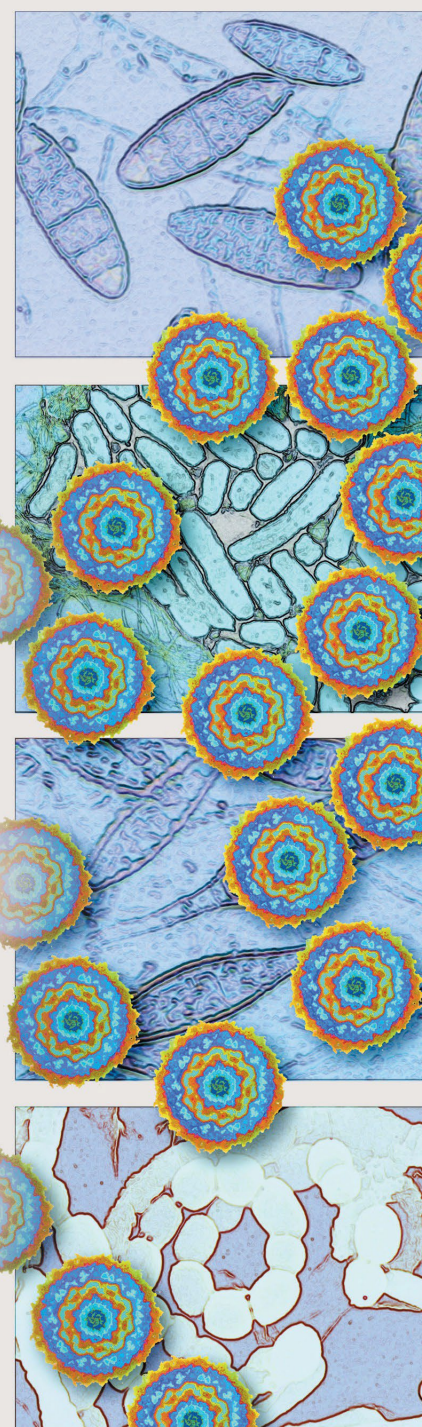
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CO-04. ACUTE/RECENT INFECTIONS AND REINFECTIONS BY HCV IN MSM WITH AND WITHOUT HIV IN THE REGION OF MADRID (ATHENS STUDY)

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Introduction and objectives: High-risk transmission behavior among MSM challenges HCV elimination goals. We examined the epidemiology of acute/recent HCV infections and reinfections in MSM with and without HIV in the Madrid region.

Methods: This prospective study (2021-2023) enrolled MSM with HIV from CoRIS at multiple centers and those with prior HCV treated with DAA from Madrid-CoRE. HIV-negative MSM on PrEP were recruited at Centro Sanitario Sandoval. Participants were assessed at baseline and 6 and 12 months, with evaluations including liver enzymes, HCV serology, and HCV-RNA. The primary outcomes were the prevalence of active HCV infection at baseline and the incidence of new infections during follow-up.

Results: 1,372 MSM (733 HIV-positive and 639 HIV-negative) were enrolled. At baseline, both HIV-positive and negative participants reported high rates of condomless anal intercourse (66 vs. 98%) and previous STIs (75 vs. 68%). Chemsex use was 33% in HIV-positives and 27% in HIV-negatives. The Table shows the prevalence of active HCV at baseline and incidence rate of new HCV infections during follow-up. The prevalence ratio for prior HCV vs. no prior HCV was 7.80 (95%CI: 3.34-18.20), and for HIV-positive vs. negative was 2.47 (95%CI: 0.98-6.23). The incidence rate ratio for prior HCV vs. no prior HCV was 5.52 (95%CI: 2.14-14.20), and for HIV-positive vs. negative was 1.97 (95%CI: 0.70 - 5.53). Two reinfections were detected in 39 MSM with confirmed active HCV during the study for a reinfection incidence of 8.7 per 100 py (95%CI: 1.05-31.4).

Conclusions: Low HCV prevalence and incidence were found among MSM without prior HCV. However, figures were significantly higher in MSM with previous HCV, regardless of HIV. Targeted interventions for HCV screening, rapid treatment initiation, and harm reduction strategies are crucial for MSM with prior HCV to achieve HCV elimination goals.

CO-04. Tabla 1

Active HCV prevalence at baseline and HCV incidence during follow-up

| Participants | Nº | Nº with prevalent HCV | HCV prevalence % (95%CI) | Years FU | N. with incident HCV | HCV incidence per 100 py (95%CI) |
|--------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| All MSM | 1,372 | 23 | 1.68 (1.07-2.20) | 1240.4 | 18 | 1.45 (0.91-2.30) |
| HIV+ | 733 | 17 | 2.32 (1.36-3.69) | 705.3 | 13 | 1.84 (1.07-3.17) |
| HIV- | 639 | 6 | 0.94 (0.35-2.03) | 535.1 | 5 | 0.93 (0.39-2.24) |
| No prior HCV | 1,106 | 8 | 0.72 (0.31-1.42) | 886.4 | 7 | 0.79 (0.38-1.66) |
| Prior HCV | 266 | 15 | 5.64 (3.19-9.13) | 252.5 | 11 | 4.35 (2.41-7.87) |