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## PREVALENCE AND CORRELATES OF DEPRESSION AMONG HIV-POSITIVE PATIENTS IN BIHAR, INDIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

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10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.433

Introduction Depression is accounted as one of the major contributors towards the neuropsychiatric complication among person living with HIV. Depression leads to the non-compliance and accounted for the worst outcomes. So, this study was aimed to assess the prevalence and correlates of depression.

Methods This was a cross-sectional study conducted at the Anti-retroviral therapy (ART) centre, RMRIMS, Patna, India. The study protocol was approved by the institutional ethics committee of Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (RMRIMS), Patna (04/RMRI/EC/2016). Patients were interviewed with the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) to assess the prevalence of depression. Association of depression with respect to demographic and disease-related factors were also assessed. Data were coded and analysed using SPSS v22. Results A total of 144 patients suffering from HIV were participated in this study. Among this selected participants, 47% were female. The mean age of participants was 38.8 years (SD=11.4). Depression was prevalent in 57% (95% CI: 48.91 to 65.09) of patient participated in the study and was highly prevalent in female (66%). Prevalence of depression was higher in patient belongs to upper lower and lower socioeconomic class. More than a quarter 28% (95% CI: 21.56 to 36.44) of respondents had mild depression, while 29% (95% CI: 21.99 to 36.41) of participants were suffering from moderate to severe depression. Prevalence of depression was found to be significantly associated with lower socioeconomic class (OR 2.458, 95% CI 1.081–5.592; p<0.05).

Conclusion Depression is highly prevalent among HIV-positive patients in Bihar region. Higher odds of prevalent depression were observed in lower socioeconomic class. Nearly 30% HIV positive patients were suffering from moderate to severe depression.

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# IMMUNE RESPONSE TO HEPATITIS B VACCINE IN A GROUP OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUE OF HYGIEN – RABAT, MOROCCO

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10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.434

Introduction Healthcare workers are one of the most at risk population of infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV). Our study aims to evaluate the practices and knowledge on the risk of HBV infection and to determine the immune status against HBV among the staff of the National Institute of Hygien (NIH).

Methods This is a descriptive cross-sectional study that involved 47 participants belonging to different categories of the NIH staff. After providing a written consent for

participation, recruts answered a questionnaire developed from the WHO guidelines.

The assessment of the immune status focused on the screening and quantification of serological markers: HBs Ag, HBs Ab, Hbc Ab by an automated technology using chemiluminescence on the system Cobas E411 (Roche Diagnostics, USA).

Results The average age of participants was 45±8 years. All respondents (n=47) confirmed their knowledge of modes of transmission of parenteral hepatitis. Moreover, 72% (n=34) recognised the liver cirrhosis as a consequence of HVB infection. The association of hepatic carcinoma with HBV infection has been acknowledged by 44% (n=21) of participants. Similarly 90.7% recognised the existence of a vaccine against hepatitis B. Biosecurity measures were available in all services. No cases of HBV chronic infection were detected. Serological markers of hepatitis B were tested for 45 participants. The results showed that 49% (n=22) have a profile of immunisation mediated by vaccin. Five respondents (11.1%) showed a profile for a past infection healed. No cases of chronic or acute HBV infection were detected.

Conclusion The present study demonstrated that despite good knowledge on the HBV infection, the vaccination rate of INH staff remains low. Regular awareness campaigns should be imposed at the NIH level to update the staff knowledge on the HBV infection and preventive measures including vaccination.

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## UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF NEEDLE: CORRELATES OF HIV, HCV AND HIV/HCV CO-INFECTION AMONG INJECTING DRUG USERS IN THREE STATES OF INDIA

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10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.435

Introduction HCV is the most common virus affecting the world's 16 million injection drug users (IDUs). It is estimated that close to 3 million IDUs are living with HIV and some studies indicate that over 90% of IDUs infected with HIV are also infected with HCV. The main objective of the study is to determine the correlates of HIV, HCV, and HIV/HCV coinfection among injecting drug users in three states of India.

Methods Data were obtained from a bio-behavioural survey-

Integrated Behavioural and Biological Assessment (2009–10) (n=1977) in the high prevalence of HIV states of India among injecting drug users, Manipur, Maharashtra, and Nagaland. The respondent-driven sampling method was used to collect the eligible respondent. Dependent variables for this study was HIV prevalence, HCV prevalence, and HIV/HCV co-infection. Bivariate and multivariate binary logistics regression were used for the analysis.

Results The prevalence of HIV, HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection varies from 15 percent to 45 percent among IDUs. It was reported that there was the significant association between HIV, HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection and socio-demographic and risky injecting behaviour. Further Multivariate analysis shows that these infections were more probable among IDUs,1–5 years of schooling, widowed/separated/divorced, longer duration of drug use and drawing-up drug solution from a common container. Further, Longer duration between first drug use and first injecting drugs use (AOR=2.1, p<0.05) and draw up drug solution from a common container

(AOR=1.6, p<0.10) were more likely to have HIV/HCV coinfection.

Conclusion The study concludes that HIV, HCV, and HIV/HCV co-infection were highly prevalent among IDUs because of their risky injecting behaviour. HIV prevention program should also focus on the prevention of coinfection with HIV/HCV.

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# DISPARITIES IN CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS SEROPREVALENCE ACROSS ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMSTERDAM: THE ROLE OF SEXUAL HEALTHCARE SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

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10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.436

Introduction In the Netherlands, there are strong disparities in Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) prevalence among ethnic groups. The highest prevalence is found among individuals from Surinamese descent. Previous research suggested that socio-economic status (SES) may be important in explaining these differences. In ethnic groups with high CT prevalence, low SES might lead to infrequent sexual healthcare seeking behaviour. We investigated whether differences in sexual healthcare seeking behaviour could explain disparities in CT prevalence between ethnic groups in the Netherlands.

Methods We used the 2011–2014 baseline data of HELIUS, a population-based multi-ethnic cohort study in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. CT was diagnosed using a multiplex serology assay. A directed acyclic graph was created to depict the hypothesised causal links between ethnicity and CT infection. The associations between CT seropositivity and its determinants were assessed with logistic regression analyses.

Results The sample consisted of 1977 individuals, with a median age of 28 (IQR 24–31) of which 52.9% were female. CT seropositivity was highest among African-Surinamese (69.7%), followed by Ghanaian (67.9%), South-Asian Surinamese (39.8%), Dutch (36.4%), Moroccan (35.2%) and Turkish (30.5%) participants. Sexual healthcare seeking behaviour was highest among Afro-Surinamese and Ghanaian participants. After adjusting for sexual healthcare seeking behaviour, SES and sexual risk behaviour, being of African-Surinamese (adjusted Odds Ratio [aOR]: 3.97; 95% CI 2.41–6.55) or Ghanaian (aOR: 2.48; 95% CI 1.27–4.86) descent remained strongly associated with CT seropositivity when compared to Dutch participants.

Conclusion Disparities in CT (sero)prevalence across ethnic groups in Amsterdam were observed and in line with literature. Higher CT seroprevalence in African-Surinamese and Ghanaian participants could not be explained by differences in sexual healthcare seeking behaviour, or other potential mediators of the association (e.g. SES and sexual risk behaviour).

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### PROFILE OF TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN: TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV/AIDS IN THE CITY OF SÃO PAULO

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10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.437

**Introduction** In Brazil most transvestites and trasgender women live unfavourable social conditions. Excluded from family and school, they find in prostitution the only form of survival.

There are few studies that distinguish epidemiological data between transvestites and transgender women, and those performed with other groups with the same social characteristics point to vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and co-infection tuberculosis. The absence of socio demographic and health data on this population makes it difficult to analyse in depth, compromising the control of health problems. This study characterised the profile of transvestites ans transgender women participating in a survey regarding tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the city of São Paulo, Brasil

Methods This cross-sectional study employed the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) questionnaire adapted for data collection. Socio demographic aspects as well as aspects related to history of imprisonment, process of gender transition, use of condoms, previous treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis and knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS were addressed.

Results The study included 58 transvestites and 66 transgender women. There were differences between the two groups regarding shooling (p=0.008), prostitution (p<0.001), imprisonment (p<0.001), silicone injections (p=0.005), and hormone therapy without medical guidance (p=0.004). All trans women (100%) and 80% of transvestites mentioned treatment of syphilis; 25.9% of transvestites reported tuberculosis/HIV co-infection. The investigation regarding knowledge of HIV/AIDS revealed insconsistent use of condoms and mistaken beliefs related to modes of transmission.

Conclusion The present results show that transvestites and trans women were vulnerable to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The differences observed between the two groups suggest the need for different approaches to transvestites and transgender women in future studies.

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#### EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV AMONG CRACK USERS IN GOIÁS, BRAZILIAN MIDWESTERN REGION

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10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.438

Introduction Midwestern Brazil is a significant route and market for cocaine in South America. The consumption of illicit drugs has contributed to HIV dissemination worldwide. Despite this scenario there is little information on the epidemiology of HIV among crack cocaine users in this region. The aims of this study were to estimate the prevalence, risk