Simplifying the HBV care pathway for west African migrants in Barcelona: an introduction to HBV-COMSAVA

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AGENDA

01 WHO AM I?
   Brief introduction

02 BACKGROUND
   Not much, we all know HBV is a major global issue

03 PRELIMINARY RESULTS
   What we learned from our mini survey

04 HBV-COMSAVA
   Main objectives, the care pathway, and expected outcomes

05 TIMELINE
   Where we currently are with the project

06 CLOSING REMARKS
   Thanks for listening!
01

WHO I AM
Camila Picchio

- PhD candidate at the University of Barcelona & ISGlobal
- Project manager + RA @ ISGlobal for viral hepatitis projects

Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

- Research institute & global health think tank with 400+ employees
- In 2019 was named a Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence
- Lines of research:
  - Malaria Elimination
  - Climate and Health
  - Air pollution and Urban Environment
  - Maternal, Child, and Reproductive health
  - Viral and bacterial infections → Health Systems & Infectious Diseases Research team
02 BACKGROUND
257,000,000

2nd leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide

03 PRELIMINARY RESULTS
HBV AWARENESS AND SELF-REPORTED TESTING AND VACCINATION STATUS

- Ghanaian migrants participating in a community-based diabetes and hypertension screening program were asked about HBV.
- Surveyed between April-September 2019.

- 210 participants (100%)
- 60% men
- Mean age: 39 (SD 11.35)
- Mean years since arrival to Spain: 12 (SD 6.8)
- 80% did not complete more than secondary school.

Source: Picchio CA et al. HBV awareness and self-reported testing and vaccination in Ghanaian migrants living in the greater Barcelona area participating in a community-based intervention. COLDA Conference 2020. Abstract #16.
KEY FINDINGS

- **75%**
  - Of participants had heard of HBV before

- **57%**
  - Of participants had never been tested before

- **95%**
  - Of participants had a public health insurance card

- **54%**
  - Of participants had never been vaccinated for *anything* since their arrival to Spain

Source: Picchio CA et al. HBV awareness and self-reported testing and vaccination in Ghanaian migrants living in the greater Barcelona area participating in a community-based intervention. COLDA conference 2020. Abstract #16.

*Those who reported being aware of HBV were more likely to have been tested for HBV before (31.9% v. 3.8%; p<0.001)*
04
HBV-COMSAVA
OUR PROPOSED SOLUTION: HBV-COMSAVA

A community-based testing and vaccination initiative to link west African migrants to liver specialist care in the greater Barcelona area through the utilization of simplified diagnostic methods and peer supporters.
HBV-COMSAVA TOOLS
A validated interactive HBV educational tool co-created by migrant populations (including African populations).

The **primary objective** is to validate a model of care that simplifies the screening and linkage to care pathway for Ghanaian and Senegalese migrant populations in the greater Barcelona area.

- To screen patients for HBV and link them to care (vaccination or treatment)
- Describe the epidemiology of HBV infection and report the seroprotection level in the screened population
- To increase HBV knowledge
- To study the feasibility of the PSC
THE INTERVENTION

Ghanaian and Senegalese community centers and churches in the greater Barcelona area (n=11)

Workshops on HBV utilizing the HeparJoc tool followed by HBV screening after

HBV rapid detection test with Abbott DETERMINE HBsAg 2 performed in community center

All participants will receive a dried blood spot (DBS) test to examine for additional hepatitis biomarkers and a date will be set to return to community center and deliver results (2-4 weeks after screening)

Medical report of each patient evaluated by specialist and vaccination or treatment decision made

Research team returns to community center to deliver results and offer first dose of HBV vaccination for those who meet the criteria and a referral to continue with second and third doses. Referrals of patients to specialist care* if needed are also delivered and patients are linked to a peer supporter

DBS samples taken to Vall d’Hebron laboratory to be analyzed

Medical report of each patient evaluated by specialist and vaccination or treatment decision made

Hospital Vall d’Hebron* or Hospital Clinic de Barcelona*

Peer supporter to ensure linkage to care and reduce loss to follow-up

Treatment initiation and follow-up at hospital* and complete vaccination at their designated primary care center

Prior to the scheduled intervention days, information sessions on HBV knowledge with KOL and development of communication material will occur in collaboration with relevant key African community members

HBsAg+ patients will require further testing

HBsAg- patients will be examined for seroprotection and additional hepatitis biomarkers

Hospital Vall d’Hebron*

Hospital Clinic de Barcelona*

Linkage to care

Figure 1. Community based hepatitis B care pathway for Ghanaian and Senegalese migrants in the greater Barcelona area
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

To increase HBV testing among west African migrants and link them to care, whether it be specialist care at a leading tertiary hospital or vaccination.

To validate a community-based HBV model of care for migrant populations
PHASE 1
**June 2020:** Project preparation begins (again)

PHASE 2
**21 Nov:** Pilot kick-off adapting to COVID-19 measures

PHASE 3
**Preliminary data available (Q1, 2021)**

PHASE 4
**Continued intervention** (12 months total)
(SOME) OF THE TEAM
THANK YOU! GRACIAS!

Do you have any questions? Camila.Picchio@isglobal.org

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