

# SEROLOGICAL-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE INCIDENCE OF VIRAL HEPATITIS C IN SOME POPULATION GROUPS

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The results of some investigations carried out on 4471 blood donors (72,4% males and 85,4% aged between 21 and 50 years, 86,4% from urban areas, 62,1% workers in industry and building) are presented. Out of these, 217 (4,9%) presented antibodies to hepatitis C virus (AcHCV). Occupational distribution of AcHCV possessors shows that 44,2% are workers in the heavy industry, 14,8% in the light industry, and 12,9% unemployed. In 241 patients (18,2%) admitted for liver disorders, posttransfusion hepatitis included, AcHCV was present in 39,4%, of which 45,2% belonged to the age groups 20-60 years. Sera were tested by

Monolisa New Ag's, and those with AcHCV were reassessed with Monolisa, Murex anti-HCV, ORTO-HCV 3.0 and confirmed by Immuno Blot DECISCAN, with 5 antigens. In the interval 1985-1994, in the Iasi district, the reported cases of viral hepatitis (VH) have recorded annual morbidity rates ranging between 67/100000 inhabitants in 1993 and 373/100000 in 1990. VH attributed to HBV has represented, with yearly differences, 62% to 94% of all cases. Posttransfusion viral hepatitis (PTVH) has determined a morbidity of 0,51/100000 inhabitants in 1985 and 8,34/100000 in 1994. PTVH without AgHBs ranged from 16,3% in 1993 to 94,0% in 1987, as compared to 6,0% in 1987 and 1988 and 75,0% in 1985 for PTVH with AgHBs. In the interval under study 70,9% of the PTVH cases were most likely determined by HCV and 28,9% by HBV (AgHBs+). From all PTVH cases, 64,0% were from urban areas, 59,3% were females, 92,5% belonged to over 20 years age groups, and 31,3% were industrial workers, the remainder belonging to other 5 occupational groups.