

PREVALENCE OF HCV, HBV AND HIV IN A PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE IN BELGIUM.



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INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C is estimated to be higher in patients with a severe mental illness compared to the general population. Respectively, the prevalence in this population is estimated to be 1.9% (HIV Ab+), 2.7% (HbsAg+) and 4.9% (HCV Ab+). These higher prevalence rates are often the result of multiple factors different from mental illness itself, including more drug and alcohol abuse, sexual risk behaviour, etc.¹ Although, there is no national screening programme in Belgium, the WHO clock continues ticking to eradicate viral hepatitis. Therefore, micro-elimination projects are essential to reduce the incidence of these diseases.^{2,3}

AIM

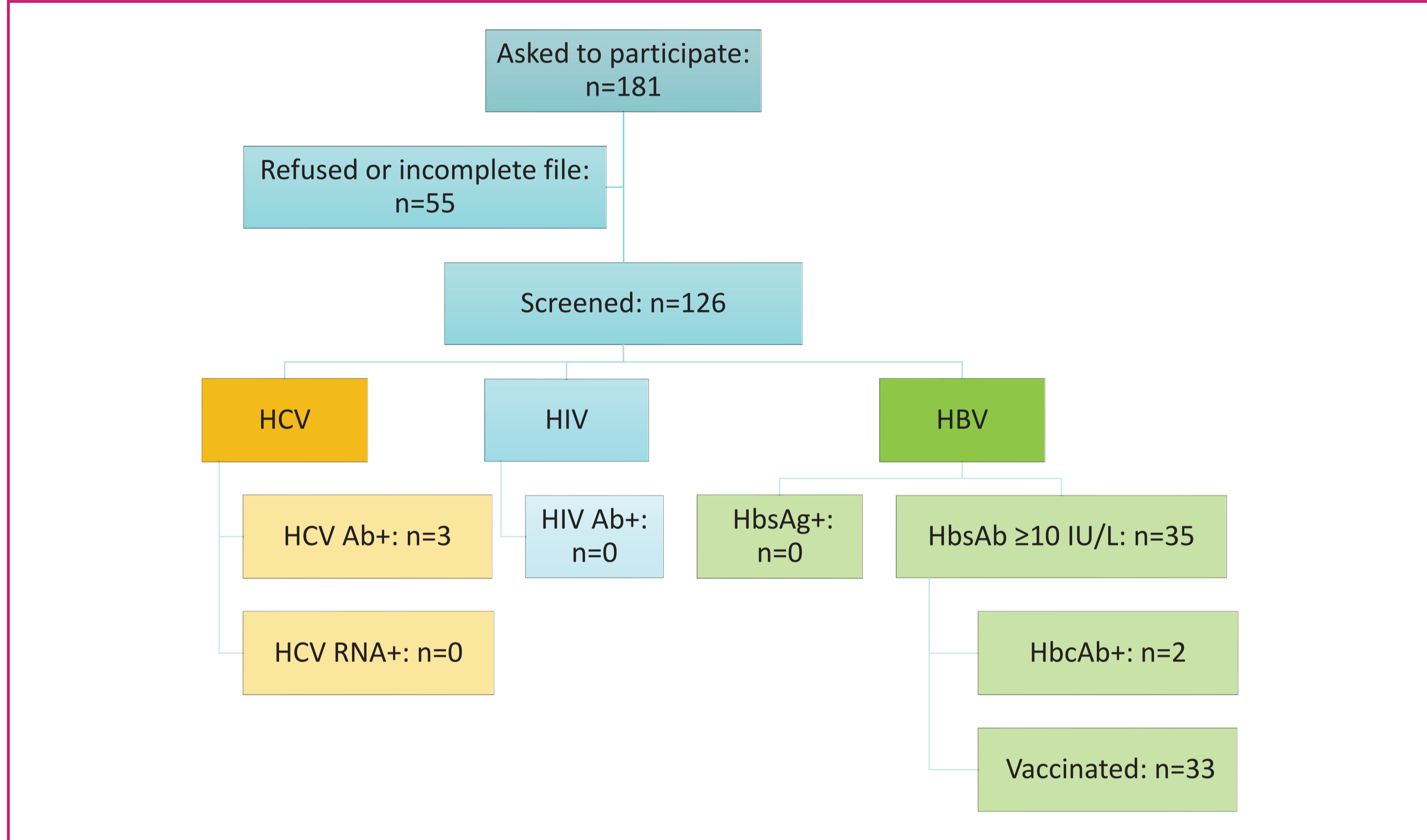
The aim of this project was to evaluate the prevalence of HIV, HBV and HCV in a local, but large psychiatric centre with multiple mental illnesses. The second aim was to determine if there is a correlation between particular psychiatric illnesses and the incidence of blood-borne viruses

METHOD

To all newly admitted patients to the psychiatric centre, we ask for informed consent to determine the HIV, HBV and HCV status additionally to the standard blood sampling that is performed when patients are admitted to this centre.

- > Age 18 years and older
- > Questionnaire for risk factors (transfusion before 1990, drug use, sexual behaviour, tattooing, etc.).

PRELIMINARY RESULTS



DSM IV	HCV Ab +	HIV Ab +	HbsAg+	Risk Factors	#ptns (%)
Delirium, Dementia, and Amnestic and Other Cognitive Disorders	1 (2)	0 (2)	0 (2)	Drug use (injecting or sniffing)	42 (33%)
Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	0 (11)	0 (11)	0 (11)	Baby Boomers (1955-1974)	38 (30%)
Mood Disorders	0 (48)	0 (48)	0 (48)	Frequent unprotected sex	24 (19%)
Anxiety Disorders	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	Been in prison	19 (15%)
Personality Disorders	0 (9)	0 (9)	0 (9)	Rape victim	17 (13.5%)
Substance-Related Disorders	2 (35)	0 (35)	0 (35)	Blood transfusion before 1990	11 (8.7%)
Adjustment Disorders	0 (8)	0 (8)	0 (8)	Tattoo/piercing in unsanitary conditions	10 (7.9%)
Additional codes	0 (2)	0 (2)	0 (2)	MSM	3 (2.4%)
TOTAL	3 (126)	0 (126)	0 (126)	Migrants from high-prevalence countries	1 (0.8%)

CONCLUSIONS

Considering these are preliminary results, these are the preliminary conclusions we can take to date. In our sample of psychiatric patients, the prevalence of these blood-borne viruses is lower than the results of the meta-analysis of Hughes et al.¹ Currently 2.4% of all screened patients had positive HCV Ab. None of them had positive HCV RNA, so no new chronic HCV cases were diagnosed. HIV Ab and HbsAg were not detected in this population. Although the patients exhibited risk behaviour (33% used drugs by injection or sniffing in the past, 19% has frequent unprotected sex, etc.) this does not result in a higher prevalence of blood-borne viruses in our sample.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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