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Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infection: A global epidemiology up-date of the circulation of HCV genotypes

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is one of the major globally prevalent pathogen and one of the main leading causes of death and morbidity. The last estimates of disease burden showed an increase in Seroprevalence over the last 15 years to 2.8%, equating to >185 million infections worldwide. Persistent HCV infection is associated with the development of liver cirrhosis, hepatocellular cancer, liver failure and death and is basically the most common cause of death in HIV-positive patients on highly active antiretroviral therapy. Previous and more recent studies have reported regional level prevalence estimates, but always considering a limited number of countries. This study represent one of the most comprehensive effort to quantify global HCV epidemiology, using the best available published data between 2000 and 2015 from 138 countries (about 90% of the global population), grouped in 20 geographical areas (with the exclusion of Oceania), as defined by the Global Burden of Diseases project (GBD). Total global HCV prevalence is estimated at 2.5% (177.5 millions of HCV infected adults), ranging from 2.9% in Africa and 1.3% in Americas, with a global viraemic rate of 67% (118.9 millions of HCV RNA positive cases), varying from 64.4% in Asia to 74.8% in Australasia. HCV genotype one is the most prevalent worldwide (49.1.%), followed by genotype three (17.9%), four (16.8%) and two (11.0%). Genotypes five and six are responsible for the remaining <5%. While genotypes one and three are common worldwide, the largest proportion of genotypes four and five is in lower-income countries. A more precise knowledge of HCV genotype distribution will be helpful to best inform national healthcare models to improve access to new treatments.

Speaker Biography

Arnolfo Petruzziello is the Head of the Virology and Molecular Biology Unit of National Cancer Institute, IRCCS Fondazione G Pascale in Naples, Italy. He has completed his Post-graduation in Microbiology and Virology and PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pathology. After having completed his Post-doctoral studies at University Federico II of Naples; he has published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed international journals and has extended his valuable service towards the scientific community with his extensive research work. He is also Rewiever and Editorial Board Member for several international scientific journals and conferences.

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