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SUMMARY OF THESIS*

MORAES, Cleusa Regina de – **Estudo epidemiológico caso-controle da infecção pelo vírus da hepatite C em pacientes e funcionários das unidades de hemodiálise do Estado de Santa Catarina.** São Paulo, 1998. (Tese de Doutorado – Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo).

HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS AND WORKERS. A CASE-CONTROL STUDY IN SANTA CATARINA STATE DIALYSIS UNITS

Patients under hemodialysis are considered high risk to contract the hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. Since few epidemiological data are reported from Brazil, our aim was to assess the occurrence rates and possible risk factors of the HCV infection in the hemodialysis patients and workers, in the 22 Dialysis Units from Santa Catarina State, south of Brazil.

The universe of the study includes 813 patients and 149 hemodialysis workers whereas the 762 controls of whole population were paired by sex and age. The occurrence of the HCV infection was of 33.4% among the patients, of 2.7% among the workers and of 0.8% among the patient´s controls. Amidst patients, the most frequent HCV genotypes were type 1a (14.5%), 1b (39.3%) and 3a (32.9%).

An univariate analysis showed a significant difference for the variables total time in hemodialysis, number of blood and derivates transfused units, previous or present contact with HBV infection, to receive dialysis always in the same unit, type of dialysis machine used, hygiene and sterilization of the machine, number of times of reusing the dialysis lines and filters, and the difference between HCV infection results.

Two multivariate analysis of stepwise logistic regression were performed. At the Model 1, the variables total time in hemodialysis, previous or present contact with HBV infection, type of dialysis machine, sterilization of the machine and the difference between HCV infection results were those that best conform to the linear model to predict the HCV infection. At the Model 2, doing multivariate analysis excluding the variable sterilization of the machine, a linear model can predict the risk to the HCV infection, adding two another variables, hygiene of the machine and number of times of reusing the dialysis lines and filters, and excluding type of dialysis machine.

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