INVESTIGATION OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF HEPATITIS A CASES AMONG MEN IN LATIN AMERICA’S BIGGEST CITY IN 2017

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BACKGROUND

Late 2016: several hepatitis A outbreaks in twenty EU countries (over 2,800 cases among MSM)

METHODS

Retrospective observational study Information was accessed from the database of individual notification of hepatitis A cases registered in the National Disease Notification System (SINAN) in the Brazilian State of São Paulo in 2017.

Variables: gender, age, race, educational level, municipality of residence, suspected source of infection and coinfection with HIV.

RESULTS

Among the notifications that had this information field correctly filled in, 42% corresponded to the sexual route.

DISCUSSION

The municipalities of São Paulo are among the best-evaluated cities in the national ranking of sanitation, which makes unlikely the association of the sudden increase of cases to water or food contamination. The occurrence of the events coincided with the internationally reported hepatitis A outbreaks, and the individual characteristics of the reported cases in São Paulo strongly suggest that they refer to an outbreak related to sexual transmission between gays and other MSM. The perceived high HIV prevalence reinforces the need for ensuring immunization for hepatitis A among PLHIV, and provides strong points of argument to the idea of its expansion to MSM and other vulnerable groups.

534% more cases reported than the previous year

São Paulo/Brazil: 970 cases reported in 2017

AMONG ALL MEN

- 50.3% white
- 6 aged between 20 to 39 years old
- 50% concluded high school or higher degrees
- 16.1% infected with HIV

AMONG HIV+ MEN

- 62.5% white
- 51% concluded high school or higher degrees

82% Men

75% women

16.1% Infected with HIV

62.5% Infected with HIV