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HBV MONOINFECTION AND HIV/HBV COINFECTION IN BRAZIL: WHICH ARE THE DIFFERENCES?

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INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is one of the main causes of liver-related mortality, resulting in almost 780,000 deaths annually worldwide. In 2015, there were 260 million people identified with chronic HBV infection. The coinfection with HIV in HBV chronic infected patients increases up to 5-6 times the risk of progression to decompensated cirrhosis and liver cancer.

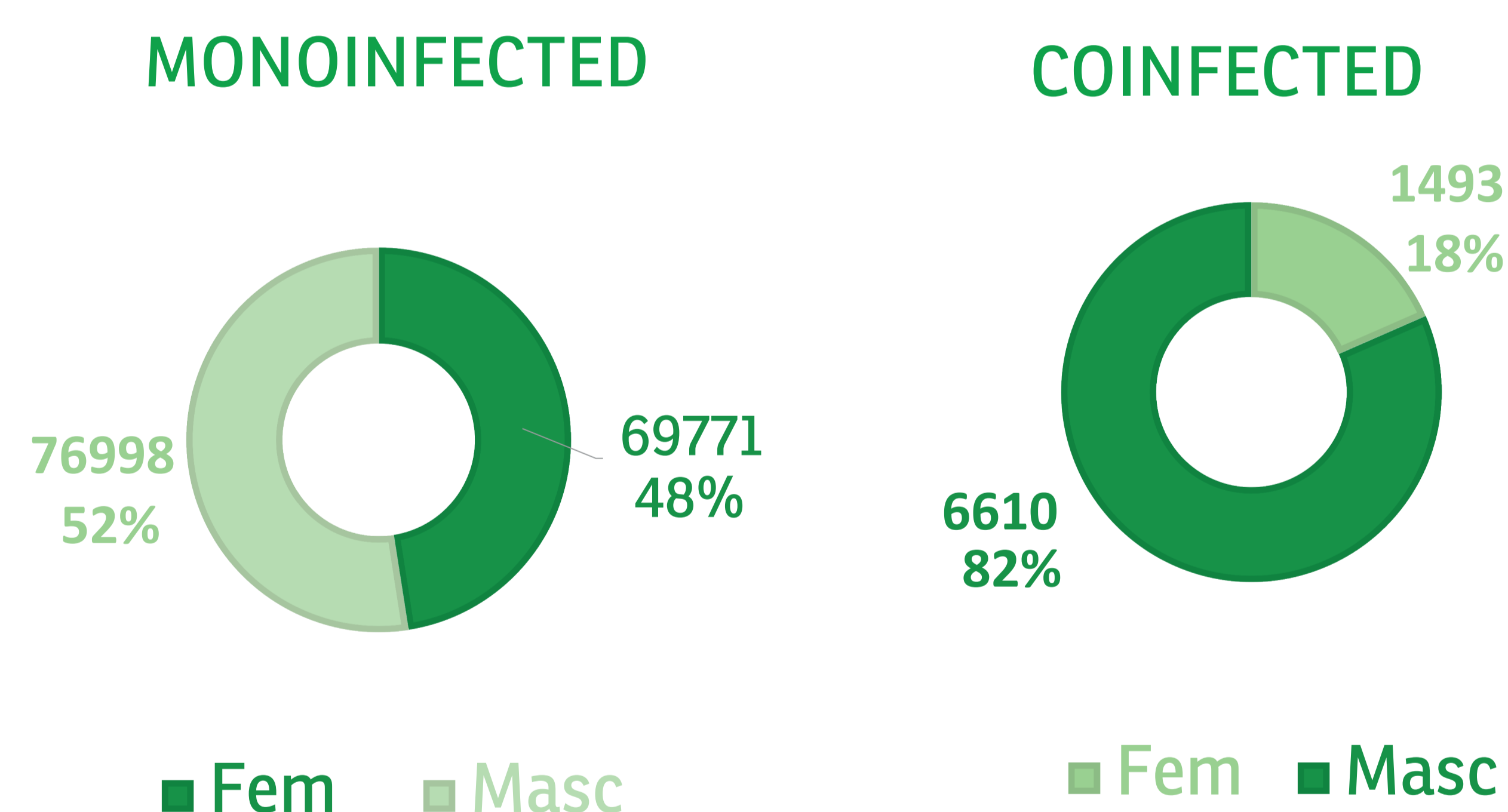
We aim to describe the clinical and epidemiological characteristics of HBV monoinfected patients and HIV/HBV coinfecting patients in Brazil to identify their differences.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We conducted a cross-sectional study of HBV cases registered in the Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN) from 2007 to 2016 in Brazil.

RESULTS

A total of 8,104 HIV/HBV coinfecting and 146,791 HBV monoinfected cases were registered.



AMONG HBV MONOINFECTED CASES

46.9% young adults (including 20-39 years old);
55.8% sexual transmission;
3.6% related to drug use.

AMONG HIV/HBV-COINFECTION CASES

54.2% white;
64.7% 30-39 years old;
31.4% 9-12 years education;
87.4% chronic infection and asymptomatic clinical form;
76.0% sexual transmission;
15.8% transmission related to drug use.

The HBV monoinfected characteristics were similar to those of HIV/HBV coinfection: 53.8% white; 33.1% 9-12 years education; 84.6% chronic infection and asymptomatic clinical form.

DISCUSSION

The results show that HIV/HBV coinfection is more prevalent among men, related to sexual transmission and drug use. The use of drugs is a continuous public health problem, and it is estimated that 12 million people use injecting drugs and 14% of them are living with HIV.

In Brazil, harm reduction policies (implemented in the 90's) were relevant to efficient control of HIV, but now they face new challenges such as crack use – which increases the risk of new infections and results in disease complications due to immune alterations. Although HBV vaccine is universal, Brazil still needs to implement prevention strategies targeting specifically the populations contemplated in this study in order to provide better care, reduce the risk of transmission and improve the access to diagnosis and treatment in the country.