Andalusia one-step diagnosis
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Reflex testing = routine, automatic HCV RNA testing in the event of a positive HCV antibody test

Aim: to evaluate the impact of reflex testing (one-step diagnosis using a single blood sample) on the rate of patient referral for treatment for HCV in Andalusia

Why is the intervention needed?
In 2016, almost half of new HCV diagnoses in southern Spain were not linked to care1

Reflex testing has been successfully implemented in 18 hospitals in Andalusia2

Observational, retrospective and prospective study in which all hospitals in Andalusia were invited to participate

What is the intervention and how does it work?2,4

Pre-reflex cohort (2016)
- Prospective analysis (18 hospitals implement reflex testing, N=623)
- 2-month implementation phase for reflex testing
- HCV viral load testing on all anti-HCV+ samples
- Alert with HCV RNA+ test result to refer the patient for treatment

Reflex cohort (2017–2018)
- Retrospective analysis (13 hospitals, N=1053)
- Source: electronic medical records and laboratory data

Consensus document recommending one-step diagnosis for HCV helped overcome the main barrier for reflex testing4

Endorsed by clinical microbiology, gastroenterology and infectious diseases societies in Andalusia, an initiative later endorsed by national societies

Outcomes1,2,4

Reflex testing has been successfully implemented in 18 hospitals in Andalusia

Estimated economic impact of reflex testing One-step vs standard diagnosis7

€184,928 TOTAL COST SAVING

€3,634 SAVING PER PATIENT

1. Based on a decision tree model of 269,526 individuals estimated to be screened for HCV (of a population of ~8.4 million in Andalusia)

Insights and learnings
Understanding the barriers of diagnostic laboratories to perform reflex testing was essential to successful implementation

Data from patients in prisons and attending addiction centres confirm that in these settings there are additional barriers to linkage to care1,4

Inequalities in linkage to care across the different centres participating in the study was observed7

Reflex testing can improve linkage to care for patients with HCV. This intervention has been incorporated into all Andalusian microbiology laboratories as routine, and there is now national consensus in favour of its use among the peak scientific societies

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