

# Viral hepatitis (B and C) in Portuguese patients with Sjögren's syndrome (SS)

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**Introduction.** Concerning SS etiopathogeny, many international studies try to find the predispose genetic factors and its possible cofactors. Herpes virus family (EBV) and Retrovirus family (HIV and HTLV-1) have been large studied. Some other virus has not been so much studied namely Hepatitis B virus (HB). Salivary gland biopsy show in many patients with Hepatitis C (HC) the existence of a focal lymphocytic sialadenitis but results about the association of SS with HC are contradictory (1,2,3).

**Aims.** To determine the prevalence of HB and HC markers in Portuguese patients with primary SS (P-SS) and secondary SS (S-SS).

**Material and methods.** We evaluated 68 patients with P-SS according to European criteria and 61 patients with S-SS (Rheumatoid Arthritis-39; Mixed Connective Tissue Disease-4; Ankylosing Spondylitis-3; Systemic Lupus Erythematosus-4; Diffuse Systemic Sclerosis-4; Primary Biliary Cirrhosis-2; Oligoarthritis-2; CREST-1; Behçet's Disease-1; Psoriatic Arthritis-1). Two control groups were used: a. 58 patients with osteoarthritis (OA) control for HC, b. data for HB in Portuguese population of blood donors.

	Female	Male	Mean age	Range
P-SS ( 68 )	65 (95.6%)	3 (4.4%)	61.86 ± 10.23	42-84
S-SS ( 61 )	55 (90.2%)	6 (9.8%)	60.31 ± 10.18	26-75
OA ( 58 )	50 (86.2%)	8 (13.8%)	65.31 ± 10.7	41-86

A screening for HC and HB was done in all the patients. We use 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Elisa test to HC. The patients with a positive Elisa test were checked for viral HC-RNA (by PCR). We determine the following HB markers by R.I.A.: HBsAg and HbcAb. Statistic method: <sup>2</sup>of Pearson.

## Results

	Hepatitis C		Hepatitis B	
	HC-Elisa	HC-RNA(PCR)	HBsAg	HbcAb
P-SS (68)	5 (7.4%)	2 (2.9%)	0	2
S-SS (61)	4 (6.6%)	4 (6.6%)	0	3
OA (58)	1 (1.7%)	1 (1.7%)		

Note: Data of Portuguese population of blood donors – HbsAg = 1-2%

**Discussion and conclusions.** Although this study shows that the frequency of HC markers is higher in the SS group there are no statistic differences. We found a high frequency of negative HC-RNA in patients with positive Elisa. In respect to HB markers there are a low frequency in our patients with SS. Our study about relations between HC and SS suggest the necessity of larger series.

## References

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