

# TRAINING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN PRIMARY CARE FOR ACTIVE SEARCH FOR PATIENTS WITH HEPATITIS C AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS

ALMEIDA AV<sup>1</sup>, Paro FM<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Associação Pró-Vidas Transplantes: (email: [adautovieira1210@gmail.com](mailto:adautovieira1210@gmail.com); [www.pro-vidastransplantes.org.br](http://www.pro-vidastransplantes.org.br))

<sup>2</sup> Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo. Departamento de Educação Integrada em Saúde (email: [flamarp@yahoo.com](mailto:flamarp@yahoo.com); phones : 55-27-98185-5956; 55-27-3335-7546) ;

## Background

Evidences show a lack of knowledge on viral hepatitis among health professionals, showing the need to include this issue in continuing educational programs.

Increasing knowledge about viral hepatitis among health professionals working in primary care can contribute for early diagnosis and prevention.

**This project aims to train health professionals working in primary care for active search for patients with hepatitis c and early diagnosis.**

## Methods

➤ This social project was created and carried out by a non-governmental non-profit organization, Associação Pró-Vidas Transplantes in partnership with local public health department of State of Espírito Santo, municipal public health departments, health universities and sponsorships.

➤ The project started on March, 2016.

➤ Professionals working in primary care were trained in 9 municipalities of the State of Espírito Santo, located in the southeastern region of Brazil (Figure 1).

➤ In each municipality, Associação Pró-Vidas Transplantes had partnerships with health universities and / or municipal health department to conduct the project.

➤ Workshops were organized for training health professionals on viral hepatitis and they are also informed about the campaign which is held in the city two weeks after the workshop.

➤ Health students of the universities were trained for performing rapid tests for anti-HCV detection.

➤ On the day of the campaign, rapid tests for anti-HCV detection are performed for free for population in central locations of the municipality. People who have reagent results are referred to the local public service of health to confirm the diagnosis and perform treatment.

## Results

➤ This project was conducted in 9 municipalities located in different regions of the state of Espírito Santo (Figure 1).

➤ Number of professionals trained: 1,397.

➤ Rapid screening test for hepatitis C: 6,430 people.

➤ People reagents to the rapid test referred for diagnostic confirmation in the public health system: 53

Tests, counseling and referral were carried out by professionals and volunteers of Associação Pró-Vidas, professors and students of universities previously trained and municipal health department professionals.



Fig. 1: Health regionalization map of Espírito Santo State

## Conclusion

Partnerships among non-governmental non-profit organization, public health departments, health universities and sponsorships are important to improve public health and face the challenge of viral hepatitis, especially in developing countries.

The organizers aims to continue carrying out this project in municipalities not served yet and implement a continuing educational program on viral hepatitis in the municipalities already served.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** We recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations. I declare that Associação Pró-Vidas Transplantes, not governmental organization carrying out this project, received a sponsorship fee of Bristol-Myers Squibb in April 2016 to carry out the project.