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Summary

HEPATITIS C VIRUS PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS IN A VILLAGE FROM NORTHEASTERN ROMANIA - THE FIRST STEP TO VIRAL MICRO-ELIMINATION

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023 | Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 15, 2023

A population-based HCV screening study in a Romanian village identified 2.64% prevalence with 99% sustained virological response after treatment, supporting micro-elimination strategies toward WHO 2030 goals.

KEY POINTS

- Of 2945 adults screened in a Northeastern Romanian village, 78 (2.64%) tested positive for HCV antibodies, 55 had detectable HCV RNA, and 53 of 54 treated patients achieved sustained virological response.
- Key risk factors for chronic HCV infection included blood transfusions before 1992 (OR=3.21), family history of HCV (OR=2.23), sharing personal hygiene objects (OR=1.45), abortions before 1990 (OR=1.35), and multiple surgical interventions (OR=1.32).
- The study achieved an 84% screening participation rate and successfully linked 85% of antibody-positive individuals to tertiary care for evaluation and treatment.
- The authors conclude that micro-elimination strategies based on mass screening can facilitate the cascade of care and support WHO objectives to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030.

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