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Observational Study

Attempt to calculate the prevalence and features of chronic hepatitis c infection in Tuscany using administrative data

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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROCESS

This study explores the possibility to calculate with administrative data the prevalence and features of patients with chronic HCV infection in Tuscany in comparison with data reported in research studies.

A first analysis was carried out by applying the prevalence data reported by Ansaldi et al. (2015) on HCV-RNA positive population resident in Italy. For this calculation were used National Statistical Institute data. A subsequent analysis was performed using prevalence data of Ansaldi et al. (2015) on the resident population in Tuscany (data of the Regional Health Agency of Tuscany).

Through the universal code attributed by Tuscany Region to every citizen residing in its territory, we have identified (in each information flow) the people to whom a code had been assigned. The codes of these patients, living at 2015, were matched with hospital admission codes, with codes for dispensing drugs to patients by local and hospital pharmacy. Each individual was considered only once.

Given the considerable differences among the world regions, the calculation of HCV prevalence through administrative flows seems to be essential for intervention policy strategies. Currently, these data are highly interesting given that the introduction of direct-acting antiviral drugs has highlighted the problem of sustainability due to the high costs of new drugs in low and middle income countries.

Therefore, given the high number of chronic HCV-infected patients and the high costs of these drugs, the administrative data could be useful for calculating health care costs and health planning in the coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cristina Stasi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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