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STEATOSIS AND HEPATIC FIBROSIS IN PEDIATRIC POPULATION WITH OVERWEIGHT OR OBESITY BY TRANSITION ELASTOGRAPHY.

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Introduction and Objectives: Childhood obesity is a serious and increasingly prevalent problem in the world and in our country. The association of obesity and hepatic steatosis in early stages may be a predictor of hepatic fibrosis and the development of cirrhosis.

To determine the frequency of hepatic steatosis and fibrosis and their grades with transitional elastography in overweight or obese children, and to analyze the association between fibrosis and steatosis with sex.

Materials and Methods: Descriptive, cross-sectional, observational and analytical study of children with overweight or obesity. Descriptive statistics were used with measures of central tendency and dispersion, the association between fibrosis and steatosis with sex was evaluated using Chi-square test with Bonferroni correction, with significance level $p \leq .05$.

Results: 129 patients were included with 11 ± 2.6 years, 64 boys (49.6%) and 65 girls (50.4%), they were classified: 26 (20.2%) with overweight, 76 (58.9%) with GI Obesity, 23 (17.8%) G2 and 4 (3.1%) with G3 95 (73. 6%) have steatosis, and 73 (56.4%) had some degree of fibrosis; No association was found between sex and steatosis or fibrosis $\chi^2(1)=3.46$; $p=0.64$ nor for steatosis F $\chi^2(3)=3.74$; $p=0.290$. (Figure 1).

Conclusions: We found a high prevalence of grade III steatosis and grade I fibrosis in this pediatric population that could in the long term condition the development of cirrhosis. We did not find an association between sex steatosis and fibrosis, perhaps because there is still no change in hormones.

Conflict of interest: None

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ELIMINATION OF HEPATITIS C AMONG HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS IN ALAGOAS, BRAZIL

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Introduction and Objectives: Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection remains a major global public health concern. The World Health Organization (WHO) aims to eliminate it the disease by 2030 through integrated prevention, diagnosis, and treatment strategies. In Brazil, most the majority of hepatitis-related deaths are due attributed to HCV. Transmission is parenteral occurs primarily through parenteral

exposure; high-risk groups include individuals receiving blood transfusions. Hemodialysis patients are particularly vulnerable.

To characterize and establish a systematic registry of HCV-infected hemodialysis patients in Alagoas, Brazil, with the aim to eliminate HCV through antiviral therapy.

Materials and Methods: A prospective study was conducted from April 2023 to December 2024, including HCV-positive patients undergoing renal replacement therapy at ten hemodialysis units in Alagoas.

Results: A total of 44 patients were included (14 female, and 30 male). Eleven had achieved spontaneous viral clearance; and four died. Twenty-eight patients underwent a 12-week course of Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir, all achieving sustained virologic response. Consequently, HCV was eliminated in all participating dialysis units.

Conclusions: Alagoas is the first Brazilian state to eradicate HCV from all dialysis units, representing a notable public health milestone. Continued and expanded targeted strategies are essential to eliminate HCV in other high-risk groups.

Conflict of interest: None

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LIVER-INTESTINE AXIS IN CIRRHOSIS: EFFECTS OF MODERATE PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND MELATONIN ON INTESTINAL DAMAGE

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Introduction and Objectives: The liver-gut axis represents the connection between the gastrointestinal tract and the liver. Intestinal homeostasis depends on the liver, which receives blood from the intestine and secretes bile, influencing its functions. Liver cirrhosis compromises this dynamic, which can cause intestinal alterations. Physical exercise (EX) has beneficial effects in several pathological conditions. Melatonin (MLT) stands out for its antioxidant action. The objective is to investigate the intestinal alterations caused by secondary biliary cirrhosis and the effects of EX and MLT.

Materials and Methods: Twenty-six male Wistar rats were distributed into the following groups: control (CO), BDL (bile duct ligation), BDL+EX and BDL+MLT. The EX consisted of moderate swimming (10 min/day) starting on the 15th day after surgery. MLT was administered intraperitoneally (20 mg/kg/day) during the same period. On the 29th day, the animals were euthanized for blood and colon collection. Data were analyzed by ANOVA - Student-Newman-Keuls ($p < 0.05$).

Results: The enzymes AST, ALT and ALP increased in the BDL group, with a significant reduction in the BDL+EX and BDL+MLT groups ($p < 0.001$). In histology (HE), BDL showed crypt destruction, edema and inflammatory infiltrate. The treated groups showed reduced damage and a structure similar to CO. The SOD and TLR4 showed reduced expression of these markers in the BDL+EX and BDL+MLT groups when compared to the BDL group ($p < 0.001$). The NF κ B