

#202 - ILLICIT SUBSTANCE USE AND ITS IMPACT ON ALCOHOL-ASSOCIATED HEPATITIS IN LATIN AMERICA

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Díaz L¹, Idalsoaga F¹, Ayares G¹, Arnold J¹, Alcayaga B¹, Maldonado K², Ayala M³, Perez D³, Gomez J³, Escarate R³, Fuentes E¹, Roblero J⁴, Simian D⁴, Norero B⁵, Lazarte R⁶, Velarde J⁷, Higuera-de-la-Tijera F⁸, Córdova J⁹, Varela J¹⁰, Mejía S¹¹, Silva R¹², Melo C¹³, Araujo R¹⁴, Pereira G¹⁵, Couto C¹⁶, Bessone F¹⁷, Tanno M¹⁷, Romero G¹⁸, Mendizabal M¹⁹, Marciano S²⁰, Gomez G²⁰, Dirchwolf M²¹, Montes P²², Guerra P²³, Ramos G²³, Restrepo J²⁴, Carrera E²⁵, Brahmania M²⁶, Singal A²⁷, Batailler R²⁸, Shah V²⁹, Kamath P²⁹, Arrese M¹, Arab J³⁰

¹Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile ²Roosevelt Hospital, Ciudad de Guatemala, Chile ³Hospital El Pino, Santiago, Chile ⁴Sección Gastroenterología, Santiago, Chile ⁵Hospital Dr. Sótero del Río, Santiago, Chile ⁶Clínica Hospital del Profesor, Santiago, Chile ⁷Hospital Civil Guadalajara, Guadalajara, México ⁸Hospital General de México "Dr. Eduardo Liceaga", Mexico City, México ⁹Hospital General Manuel Gea González, Mexico City, México ¹⁰Hospital Dublán, Chihuahua, México ¹¹Hospital Juárez de México, Mexico City, México ¹²Hospital de Base da Faculdade de Medicina de São Jose do Rio Preto, Sao Paulo, Brasil ¹³Fhaj Fundação Hospital Adriano Jorge, Amazonas, Brasil ¹⁴Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto, Ribeirão Preto, Brasil ¹⁵Hospital Federal de Bonsucesso, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil ¹⁶Hospital das Clínicas Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brasil ¹⁷Hospital Provincial del Centenario, Santa Fe, Argentina ¹⁸Hospital de Gastroenterología " Dr. Carlos Bonorino Udaondo", Buenos Aires, Argentina ¹⁹Hospital Universitario Austral, Buenos Aires, Argentina ²⁰Hospital Italiano Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina ²¹Hospital Privado de Rosario, Rosario, Argentina ²²Hospital Nacional Daniel Alcides Carrión - Callao, Bellavista, Perú ²³Instituto Gastroenterológico Boliviano- Japonés, Cochabamba, Bolivia ²⁴Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia ²⁵Hospital Especialidades Eugenio Espejo, Quito, Ecuador ²⁶University of Calgary, Calgary, Canadá ²⁷University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, Estados Unidos (EEUU) ²⁸Hospital Clinic, Barcelona, España ²⁹Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Estados Unidos (EEUU) ³⁰Western University, London Health Sciences Center, London, Canadá

Background: Concomitant substance use is frequent among patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD), but its impact on alcohol-associated hepatitis (AH) is unknown.

Aims: To assess the prevalence and impact of substance use in patients hospitalized for AH in a multinational cohort.

Methods: Multicenter prospective cohort study including patients with AH between 2015–2022. We assessed the impact of substance consumption using competing-risk models.

Results: We included 405 patients from 24 centers in 8 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru). The mean age was 49.6±12.2 years, 345 (85.4%) were men, 210 (57.5%) had underlying cirrhosis, and the median MELD at diagnosis was 25 [20–31] points. Around 74% of patients fulfilled ACLF criteria (ACLF-1:11.1%, ACLF-2:11.6%, ACLF-3:49.6%). A total of 82 (20.3%) reported active substance use, while 22 (5.4%) were former substance users. The most common drugs used were marijuana (11.1%), cocaine (10.4%), methamphetamine (4.4%), and heroin (0.5%). Out of the total, 35.7% died, and only 2.5% underwent liver transplantation during follow-up. Active substance use was higher in younger patients (users 44.4±16.1 years vs. non-users 51.0±10.6 years; p<0.001) and in men compared to women (22.0% vs 10.2%, p=0.036). In a competing-risk model adjusted by age, sex, history of cirrhosis, MELD, and ACLF, active substance use was independently associated with mortality (subdistribution Hazard Ratio [sHR] 1.53, 95%CI:1.01–2.32; p=0.043). Active cocaine (sHR 1.69, 95%CI:1.07–2.70; p=0.025) and marijuana use (sHR 1.83, 95%CI:1.11–3.04; p=0.018) were independently associated with mortality in adjusted competing-risk analyses.

Conclusions: Active drug use is common in AH patients. Marijuana and cocaine were the most frequent substances and were independently associated with increased mortality. Integrated management with addiction specialists and psychiatrists could impact survival in AH.