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**PREVALENCE OF INFECTION AND GENOTYPES OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) AMONG INJECTING DRUG USERS FROM SALVADOR-BA, BRAZIL**

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**Introduction:** Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection constitutes the major infectious disease among injecting drug users (IDUs). Prevalence of HCV infection in this group has been estimated and range mostly from 60% to 80%. Parenteral exposure such as previous blood transfusion, injecting drug use, and tattooing are well-established risk factors for HCV infection. **Objective:** The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence infection and genotypes of HCV among IDUs from a northeastern area of Brazil. **Material and Methods:** Serum samples from 396 IDUs were collected as part of an epidemiological multicenter project. Sampling was conducted in the historical center of the city, an old area of prostitution and drug distribution, using a so-called snowball technique. Serological exam included anti-HCV screening by ELISA III. The detection of HCV-RNA was performed by RT-PCR directed to the 5'NC region of HCV and genotyping was based on the restriction analyses of the amplicons according to Simmonds' classification. **Results:** Anti-HCV was detected in a total of 102 out 396 IDUs determining a seroprevalence of 26,3% (95% CI 21.6-30.2). Viremia was confirmed in 83,3% (85/102) of the seropositive subjects. Thus, prevalence of HCV infection was estimated to be 21.4% (95% CI 17.6-25.7). HCV genotypes 1 (68.9 %) was the most prevalent followed by genotype 3 (20.3%). Mixed infections related to genotype 1 and 3 were present in 10.8% of the samples genotyped. **Conclusion:** These results showed a higher prevalence of HCV infection among IDUs from Salvador than from others Brazilian locations. HCV genotype distribution was similar when compared with other groups under risk from Salvador and with blood donors candidates.