

HCV testing training for non-HCV-specialists in a tertiary hospital: change in attitudes and rates of HCV screening

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BACKGROUND

- Many HCV infected patients remain undiagnosed.
- National and international HCV testing guidelines are poorly known by non-HCV specialists.
- Awareness is essential to improve HCV screening.

OBJECTIVES

- Impact of a training session on HCV screening in:
 - Attitudes and knowledge towards screening.
 - Number of serologies ordered, positive and active infections.

METHODS

POPULATION

Prescribers of 31 departments:
17 medical departments (med)
14 surgical departments (surg)

DESIGN AND VARIABLES

Pre and post training, by department:
-Absolute number of HCV tests.
-Screening rate by 1000 attended patients.
-New HCV diagnoses.

INTERVENTION

- 1 hour Training session by HIV and HCV/HBV specialists.
- Between March and November 2019.
- Pre and post training questionnaires.

OUTCOMES

Paired analysis of:
-Questionnaire results
-Rate of HCV tests ordered.
-New diagnosis of active infection

COLLECTED DATA

- Number of HCV serologies.
- Number of positive serologies.
- Number of active HCV infections.
- Number of patients attended per department.

RESULTS

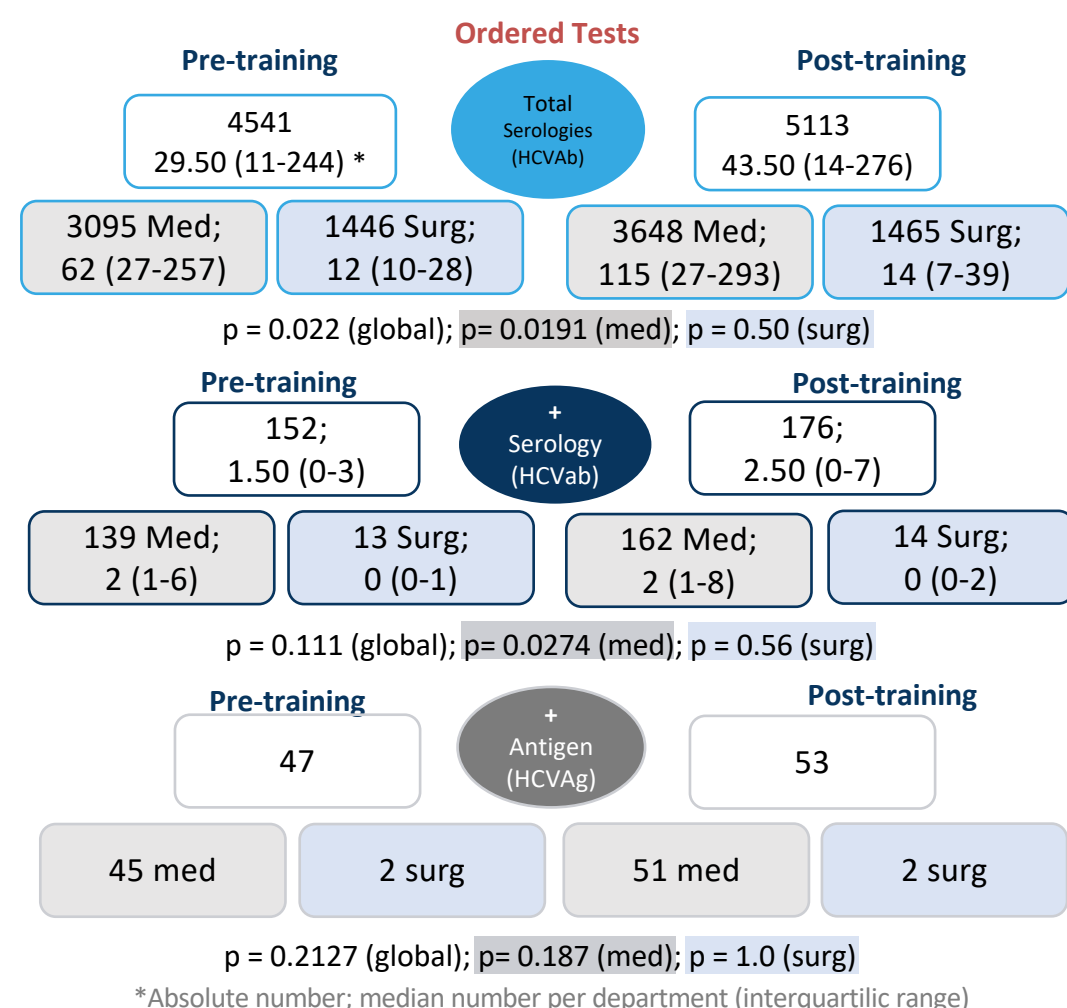
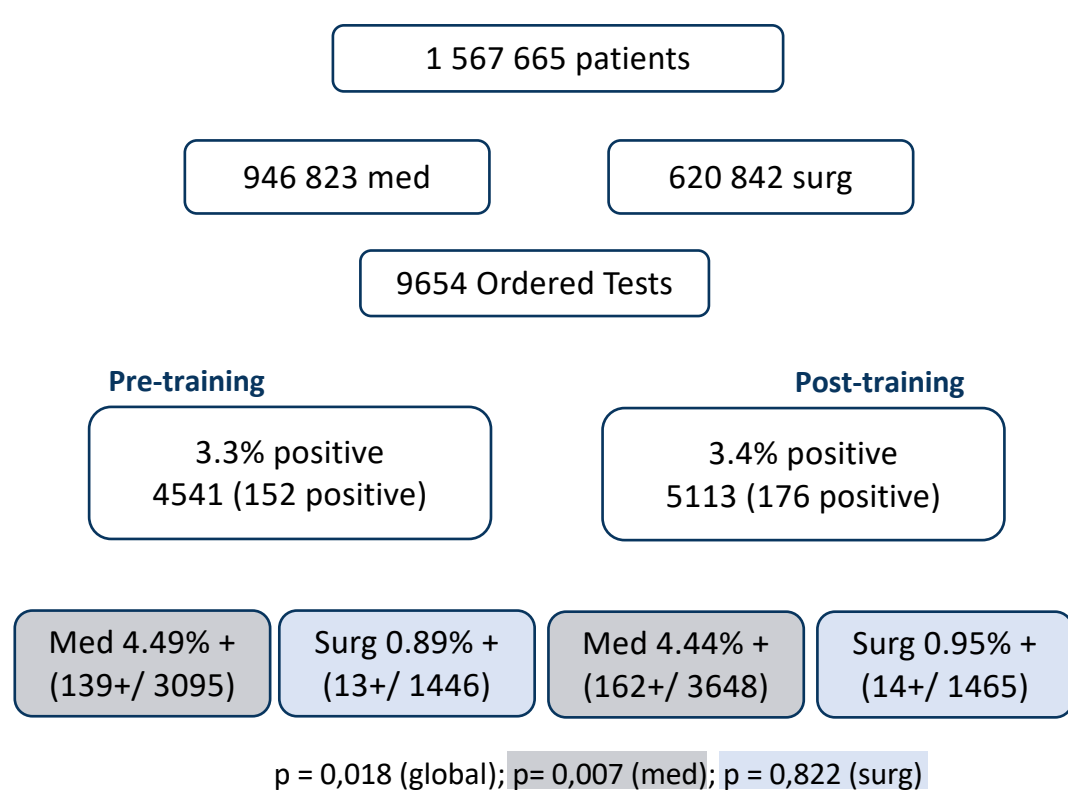
Pre-training questionnaire:

- Knowledge of guidelines: 18% (30% med vs. 3% surg, $p < 0.001$).
- When do you order HCV tests?:
5% routinely, 60% if risk factors, 34% never.

Post-training questionnaire:

- 98% considered the training useful.
- ↑ Up to 22% showed positive attitude towards routine screening.
- ↓ Down to 2% will never order screening HCV tests.

	HCV tests/10 ³ patients		P	HCV Ab (+)/10 ⁵ patients		P	HCV ag/PCR (+) /10 ⁵ patients		P
	Before-Training	After-Training		Before-Training	After-Training		Before-Training	After-Training	
All	5.79	6.52	<0.001	19.39	22.45	0.111	5.99	6.76	0.212
Medical	6.54	7.71	<0.001	29.36	34.22	0.027	9.51	10.77	0.187
Surgical	4.66	4.72	0.725	4.19	4.51	0.564	0.64	0.64	1.000



CONCLUSIONS

- Non-HCV specialists reported poor knowledge of HCV screening guidelines, being worse in surgical departments.
- Directed training was considered useful and significantly improved predisposition for HCV screening in both medical and surgical departments.
- An improve in HCV screening was detected after the intervention, although concentrated only in medical departments.