Prevalence of hepatic steatosis in HIV-positive patients
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Background: Reports of hepatic steatosis (HS) are increasing among HIV-positive individuals worldwide. Nevertheless, its prevalence, natural history and factors associated are not well understood in this population. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of HS in a well controlled HIV cohort and its associated factors. Methods: Patients attended in the HIV/AIDS outpatient clinic at Hospital de Clínicas (SoBrHIV cohort), Porto Alegre, Brazil, were consecutively enrolled from October, 2016 to February, 2017. HS was detected by ultrasound (US) performance. Inclusion criteria were the following: no acute disease present; undetectable viral load (<50 copies/mL) for at least 6 months; age older than 18 years; and clinically stable. Pregnancy and current diagnosis of hepatitis B or C were exclusion criteria, as well as who were not able to understand the study. Results: These are of the initial results. Forty-five (45) patients included in the study. Overall 44% were male and mean age was 47 years. 90% of these patients were European descendants. The mean time on ART was 10 years and patients had a mean time HIV diagnosis of 12 years. In this initial report, HS was present in 12 (27%) individuals. 66% of these patients were male and mean age between patients who presented HS was 51 years. 33% had hypertension, 8% had diabetes and 67% presented dyslipidemia. Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) was elevated in 33% of patients. Conclusion: In this initial report we present, in a cohort of well controlled HIV positive individuals, a higher than expected prevalence of HS (27%). However, the first of these patients had increased levels of ALT, suggestive of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. The study is ongoing and we will further enrolled more patients in order to better evaluate its prevalence and possible risk factors more accurately. Keywords: HIV patients, hepatic steatosis