

Transmissible Diseases

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DESCRIPTION

Our group focus its activity in the area around the epidemiology of communicable diseases, developing lines of collaborative and multidisciplinary research in the surveillance, prevention and control mainly of the following communicable diseases: tuberculosis, HIV/sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis, vaccineable diseases and vaccine hesitancy and vector-borne diseases. In addition, we develop research in the area of community health workers (CHW) and their intervention in the migrant population with communicable diseases prevention and control.

The team is composed of a multidisciplinary group of epidemiologists, public health professionals and doctors of different specialities who work in the clinic field, at the laboratory or in the epidemiological surveillance of communicable infectious diseases.

1.-Tuberculosis:

- 1.1 Evaluation of interventions to improve surveillance and tuberculosis (TB) control, diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
- 1.2 Predictors of TB in a cohort of TB-infected contacts to determine the disease incidence at 2 and 5 years in Catalonia.
- 1.3 Characterisation of TB in vulnerable populations: immigrants, the homeless, children, poorly adherent TB patients, HIV, etc.
- 1.4 Latent TB infection characterisation, prescription and treatment completion in vulnerable populations.

2.- Sexually transmitted infections (STI)/ HIV:

2.1 Use of information and communication technologies for the prevention and control of STI/HIV: a) Creation of Apps to promote sexual health both in HIV positive and HIV negative men. b) Use of Apps to offer rapid tests outside the sanitary circuit

2.2 New technologies: APPS for HIV and STD contact tracing.

2.4 Study of HIV contacts to determine the incidence among them.

3. CHW for communicable diseases control:

With the increase in immigration, we have incorporated CHW that aid in the prevention and control of these diseases. They act as mediators and translators.

4.- Incidence studies of mumps, whooping cough and other vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as studies of factors influencing the transmission of these diseases in different settings, as well as the effectiveness of immunisation and chemoprophylaxis.

5.- Outbreaks:

5.1 Investigation of the causes and implementation of control measures as in the case of different kinds of outbreaks.

5.2 Characterisation of Mpox cases in Barcelona since the 2022 epidemic and implementation of prevention and control measures

6.- To monitor vaccine hesitancy, study its determinants and develop interventions to reduce and prevent it:

6.1 Effectiveness of an intervention on vaccine hesitancy among pediatric nurses and paediatricians: A mixed methodology study.

7. Vector-borne diseases: surveillance of cases and environmental factors related to vector distribution, especially *Aedes albopictus* and *Culex pipiens*, and their impact on the risk of local transmission of arboviral diseases.

MAIN LINES OF RESEARCH

- Health Tuberculosis : Characterization of TB and Latent TB in general and vulnerable populations (immigrants, homeless, children, injecting drug users, bad adherence TB patients, HIV, Diabetes etc) and evaluation of interventions to improve surveillance, prevention and control of TB. (Millet Vilanova, Joan Pau).
- Sexually transmitted infections (STI)/ VIH: Use of information and communication technologies for the prevention and control of STI/HIV (Apps to promote sexual health and to offer rapid tests outside the sanitary circuit). (Pericas Escalé, Carlos).
- Community health workers (CHW) for communicable diseases prevention and control. (Ospina Valencia, Jesús Edison).
- Study of the incidence and factors influencing the transmission of vaccine preventable diseases. (Rius Gibert, Cristina).
- Outbreaks: Characterization of Mpox cases in Barcelona since the 2022 epidemic and implementation of prevention and control measures. (Pericas Escalé, Carlos).
- To monitor vaccine hesitancy, study its determinants and develop interventions to reduce it and prevent it. (Rius Gibert, Cristina).
- Vector-borne diseases: Environmental factors related to vector distribution, specially *Aedes albopictus* and *Culex pipiens*, and their impact on risk of local transmission of arboviral diseases. (Montalvo Porro, Tomas).

SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES

- Evaluate HIV/STI screening programs in different gay venues.
- STD/HIV and TB contract tracing and screening.
- Improve treatment adherence of tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis infection.
- Improve detection and research into the causes of C hepatitis.
- Improve detection and control measures of outbreaks.
- Evaluate public health interventions

- Describe the threats and improve the procedures of vector-borne transmitted diseases.

ACTIVE & AWARDED GRANTS

- Montalvo Porro, Tomas. An early warning and response system for the detection and prevention of vector-borne disease importation and spread in the Mediterranean (IDAlert). IDAlert. Unión Europea. Duration: 2022-2027. 93.917,00 €
- Montalvo Porro, Tomas. Eco-Epidemiological Intelligence for early Warning and response to mosquito-borne disease risk in Endemic and Emergence settings. 1010886640. HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01. Unión Europea. Duration: 2023-2026. 48.363,75 € (ASPB Participant)
- Montalvo Porro, Tomas. Mobile Bio-Lab to support first response in Arbovirus outbreaks. 1011099283. HORIZON-EIC-2022-PATHFINDEROPEN-01. Unión Europea. Duration: 2023-2027. 161.750,00 € (ASPB Participant)
- Rius Gibert, Cristina. Infecció tuberculosa latent en col·lectius vulnerables a Barcelona ciutat en risc de progressió a tuberculosi. 2024 DI 00009. Duration: 2024-2027. 21.600,00 €
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SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

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