

### Seroprevalence of strongyloidiasis in liver transplant candidates on a tertiary-level hospital in Newark, NJ.

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**Background:** The liver transplant center at University Hospital (Newark, NJ) is one of the busiest in northern NJ. Current guidelines for *Strongyloides stercoralis* (Ss) screening in solid transplant recipients recommend targeted testing. We propose a high seroprevalence of this infection in our facility given its significant percentage of foreign-born patients from Ss endemic areas such as Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.

**Methods:** Descriptive study from secondary data. We obtained the total number of *Strongyloides* Ab tests performed at University Hospital in the last 2 years (08/2018-10/2020). Subsequently, medical charts were reviewed to obtain epidemiological and clinical data.

**Results:** A total 388 patients underwent screening for *Strongyloides* Ab, of whom 71 (18%) were positive. The test was mainly performed in male (58%) and foreign-born (55%) patients. More than half (55%) of the US-born individuals had history of travel overseas. The main reasons for testing were transplant evaluation (65%), immunosuppression (14%) and eosinophilia (9%). There was no association between transplant evaluation and seropositivity (81% vs 81%,  $p = 0.994$ ). Being foreign-born was not associated with a positive test (19% vs 20%,  $p = 0.834$ ), but for US-born patients, having a history of travel was associated with a positive test (33% vs 14%,  $p = 0.039$ ). For the Ss positive patients, 34% had a HTLV-I/II test, 48% had at least one stool test and 76% were given treatment.

**Conclusion:** There is a significant seroprevalence of Ss in our transplant candidate population, both non-foreign and foreign born, prompting the indication for universal screening at our facility.