

A new strategy for screening infectious diseases amongst migrants: the STRADA study

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Background: High prevalence of infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB), HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV) amongst migrants

TB:

- 4536 cases notified in France in 2015; 2/3 of them are amongst migrants.
- All legal migrants undergo a mandatory medical check-up that includes a tuberculosis screening by chest X-ray
- An electronic questionnaire has been developed in Switzerland to screen tuberculosis amongst asylum seekers (TB screen). It could detect active tuberculosis and replace systematic chest X-rays.

HIV, HBV, HCV:

- Almost half the HIV new diagnoses in France concern migrants.
- Prevalence of hepatitis amongst migrants coming from a highly endemic country are 4,01% (HCV) and 10% (HBV)
- The mandatory medical visit is an opportunity to offer rapid HIV and hepatitis testing.
- A screening questionnaire for risk factors (TROD screen) has been developed and could help target the screening offered.

Objective: To evaluate the efficacy of a screening strategy for infectious diseases based on risk-factor questionnaires amongst migrants during the medical check-up.

TB: To evaluate the performance of a risk-factors based questionnaire compared with the chest X-ray to screen for TB amongst migrants.

HIV, HBV, HCV: To validate a risk-factor based questionnaire (TROD screen) for the three infections and demonstrate its superiority to target screening compared with a screening based on the prevalence in the country of origin.



Methods: Prospective, multicenter, observational study.

HIV, HBV, HCV:

- Introduction of a combined rapid testing for HIV, HBV and HCV at OFII during medical check-up
- Phase 1: A risk score will be validated (10,000 participants)
- Phase 2: Its performance will be compared with a screening based on the country of origin (5,000 participants)
- Health economics analysis

Primary results

HIV, HBV, HCV:

- Study started in December 2017; 18 centers recruiting
- 4908 migrants have participated in the study and taken a test
- A sub-study found a good acceptability of those three tests by migrants
- Barriers to inclusion:
 - Language gaps, as health professionals don't feel comfortable offering a test to migrants with a low level of French
 - Organizational problems (ensuring enough staff are available to carry out tests and send to a medical service if necessary)

Conclusion:

- This study will determine the acceptability, performance, utility, costs and impact of a targeted optimized screening strategy for migrants in France.
- The presence of infectious diseases amongst migrants is a major public health issue. STRADA is an innovative initiative that has the potential to improve screening.
- Next steps
 - Developing electronic multilingual tools (application) to help health professionals suggest and explain test to migrants
 - Widening inclusions to other medical services serving migrants