

## **Syphilis seroprevalence in male population attend by Florianópolis public health services between 2014, January and 2015, May**

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### **Abstract**

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. Transmission usually occurs through the sexual intercourse or mother-to-child in pregnancy. The untreated disease has symptomatic and non-symptomatic alternating periods. Few studies aim to assess the risk factors and determine the syphilis prevalence in male population. Therefore, this study aims understand the syphilis seroprevalence within male patients of the Florianópolis health public services, between 2014, January and 2015, May. In order to determine patient's serological diagnosis until 2014, December, the LAMUF (Laboratório Municipal de Florianópolis) performed a non-treponemal antigen test, which is the Rapid Plasm Reagin (RPR). Within this population, according to the literature, serology was considered positive in cases when titer of sample was equal or higher than 1/16 for the RPR tests. From 2015, January, RPR was performed combined with anti-treponemal test TR-DPP SYPHILIS, therefore, in cases where the results were the similar, positive serology were confirmed. 25.700 serum samples were analyzed from patients of both genres. Regarding the statistical analysis ANOVA was possible to demonstrate differences between treatments, and was considered a significance level of 5%. Among the samples, 8.048 (31,31%) were male and 17.652 (68,68%) were female. Within male patients who used the Health Basic Units-HBU in Florianópolis, 660 (8,20%) had positive serology, whereas among the female patients, only 315 (1,785) were confirmed as positive serology for syphilis. This data shows that the syphilis prevalence among male patients is higher than on female patients, even though the number of female samples tested was twice as the male. These results can be linked to many factors, such as: men are prone to be less careful regarding safe sex practices; looking for medical help only in the presence of the disease features, whilst women routinely undergo this assessment which is mandatory within the pre-natal tests; many end up seeking alternative treatments; another justification for the lack of people seeking help in the basics units can be related to the units itself which does not have specific programs/activities for male population. There seems to exist a mismatch between the health needs of the male population and the organization of the HBU health practices.

**Keywords:** Syphilis, seroprevalence, male population, health public services, Florianópolis

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