P-252 - NEWBORN SCREENING IN GUATEMALA: NEW STRATEGIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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INTRODUCTION: Newborn screening (NS) in Guatemala has been done since three decades ago in two national hospitals (Hospital Roosevelt and Hospital General San Juan de Dios) covering births only in these hospitals. In 2018, new strategies began with the objective of completing the basic panel of tests and linking Latin-American methodologies. OBJECTIVES: Expose the current situation in Guatemala and make evident the need of support from the Government for the establishment of a National Newborn Screening Program. MATERIALS AND METHODS: Diagnostic algorithms were updated. In 2017, the samples collection was done between 24 and 28 hours after birth, and due to the little capacity of bedding, the samples collection changed to 72 hours after birth. An information network was created for professionals to socialize the importance of NS with the population. Incidence for each illness was established in 2017 and 2018 unifying both hospitals. Coverage percentage was compared for both years to evaluate the effectiveness of the new strategies. RESULTS: In 2017, 18725 newborns (NB) were screened, with a coverage percentage of 98.2 %. The incidences were: Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) 1: 2675, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH) 1: 3520, and Cystic Fibrosis (CF) 1: 5798. In 2018, 10263 NB were screened, having a coverage percentage of 47.8 %, obtaining incidence of CH 1: 1140, CAH 1: 2053, CF 1: 10263 and Galactosemia 1: 5132, with no report of Phenylketonuria cases. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS: New strategies allowed to implement the detection of Galactosemia and Phenylketonuria. Coverage decreased in 50.3 % because of the difficult access to public transportation and low financial resources. Although, incidences gave evidence of the importance to seek metabolic illnesses in NB and adjust the rates with a bigger population. Coverage percentage is alarming showing the need to establish a national level program in which multidisciplinary groups may be in charge of active seeking of cases.