

**SEROPREVALENCE OF *BARTONELLA* SP., *COXIELLA BURNETII* AND
HANTAVIRUS WITHIN PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS IN THE STATE OF
RIO DE JANEIRO – BRAZIL IN THE YEARS OF 1999 TO 2001.**

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People who inject drugs (PWID) are more susceptible to infections due to the injection of non-sterile substances, nutritional factors, drug immunomodulation and by exposure to pathogen reservoirs. There are many studies approaching HIV, HBV and HCV within PWID, however few ones investigate other agents. In this retrospective cross-sectional study, we randomly selected 300 samples from a multicenter study from the 1990s and made an analysis of the PQID profile and a serological survey for *Bartonella* sp., *Coxiella burnetii* and *Hantavirus*. The profile was similar with other studies of young, male, low income, history of imprisonment. Exposure to risk situations, such as injecting with used devices or in a public places, was frequent. Other risks were infrequent, such as low history of injection while imprisoned or being homeless. Seroprevalence of *C. burnetii* was 9.3%, almost twice as found in the national population, and similar to one international study with PWID, possibly due to the immunosuppression that follows drug use. Seroprevalence of *Bartonella* sp. was 1.0%, below the rate in Brazilian population and in international studies with PWID. Possible explanations are the absence of serological test for *B. elizabethae* and *B. quintana*, and

our lack of homeless people. Seroprevalence of *Hantavirus* was 4.0%, similar to the national population and higher compared to the only international study (0.2%). This indicates that *Hantavirus* may circulate in Brazilian with mild symptoms. Despite the limitations of the study, the results were unpublished in Brazil and point to the need to search for other infectious agents in PWID.