

Meningococcal carriage prevalence in university students, 18-24 years of age in Santiago, Chile

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© 2014 Elsevier Ltd. Introduction: *Neisseria meningitidis* invasive disease is a major public health problem. Pharyngeal carriage is considered a prerequisite for invasive infection. Prevalence reaches 10% in general population and up to 30% in the 20-24 years age group. The aim of this study was to assess pharyngeal carriage prevalence in healthy subjects aged 18-24 years, and as secondary endpoints evaluate known risk factors, to identify serogroups and sequence in the isolated strains. Methods: Cross-sectional study in 500 healthy subjects; students from Universidad de Chile aged 18-24 years, Santiago, Chile, October 2012. Each subject underwent a risk factor survey prior to throat culture sampling. Samples were processed in one central Microbiology Laboratory of Hospital Luis Calvo Mackenna and serogrouping and sequencing was performed at Instituto de Salud Pública de Chile. Results: We obtained throat samples from 500 healthy subjects, 20 (4%) positive for *N. meningitidis*. Of positiv