

Influence of the Sars-Cov 2 Pandemic on the Transmission of Syphilis in our Population

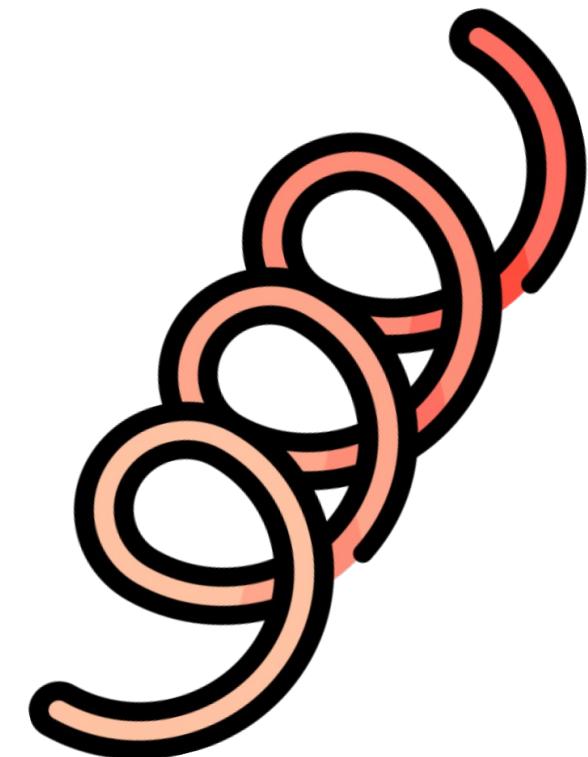
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Background-Aim

Treponema pallidum (TP) is a spirochete bacteria that cause diseases such as syphilis and yaws.

According to the National Epidemiology Center of Spain (NECS), the trend in the last two decades has been increasing year by year.

We propose to study the evolution of syphilis transmission since 2019 to 2022 with the aim of assessing the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

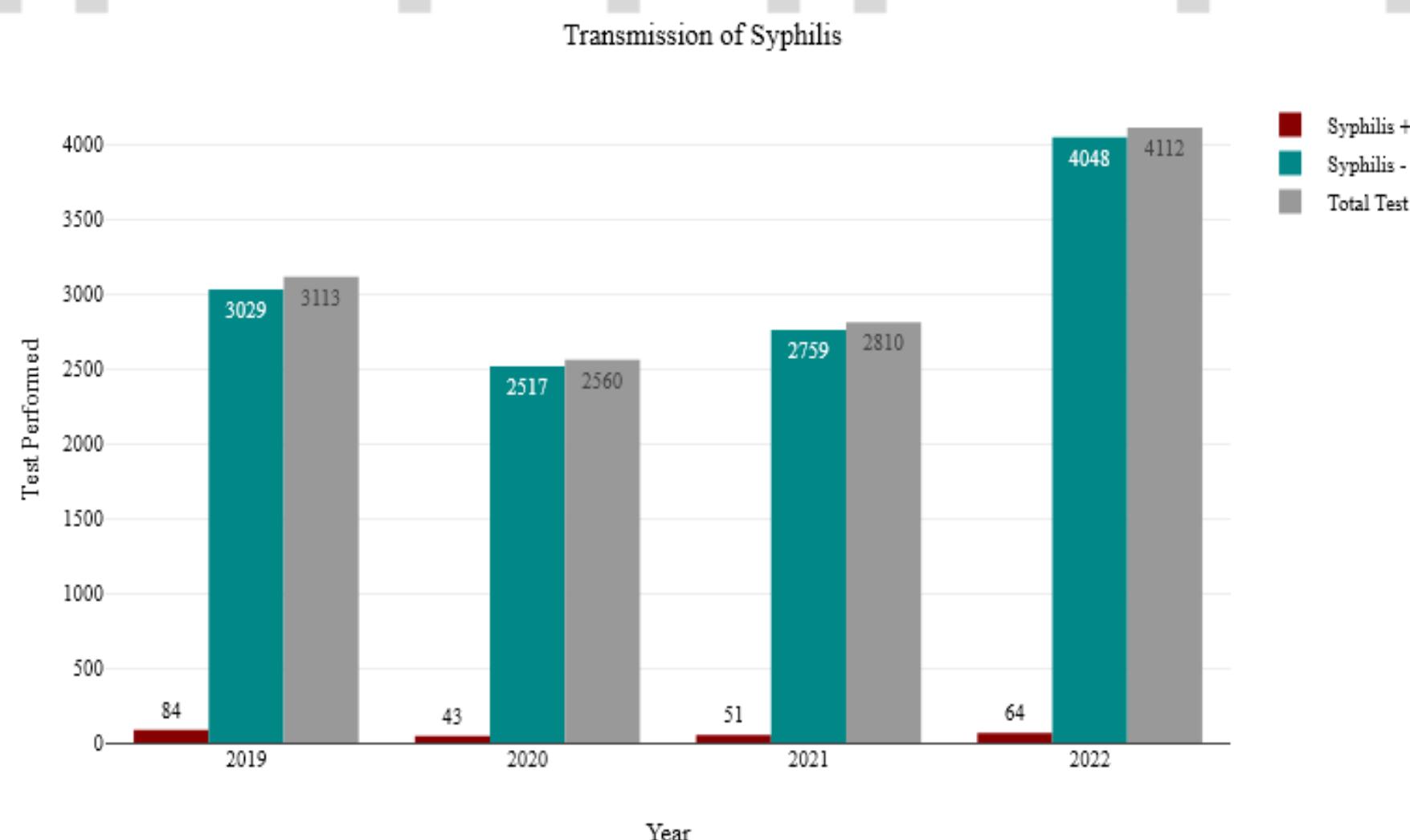


Methods

It consists of a retrospective descriptive study based on the analysis of the diagnostic results of our hospital. If a positive result is obtained by RPR test, samples will be confirmed by ELISA tests (positive EATP ratio > 1.1).

Results

A total of 12595 patients were tested since 01/01/2019 to 01/01/2023, 242 were positive (1.92%). The distribution by years was: 3113 patients (84 positive (2.69%)) in 2019; 2560 patients (43 positive (1.67%)) in 2020; 2810 patients (51 positive (1.81%)) in 2021 and 4112 (64 positive (1.55%)) in 2022.



Conclusion

The number of tests performed in 2020 was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic because of lockdown measures, showing a drastic drop as well in the rate of positive patients (-1.02%). In 2021, with less restrictive measures, occurred a little rebound (+0.14%). In 2022, with a situation with hardly any restrictions, we reached a maximum of TP screenings, concluding with a slight downward trend (-0.26%). In our area, the Covid-19 situation meant a decrease in the upward trend of syphilis in recent decades. Statistical analysis of laboratory tests for syphilis allows a better understanding of the diagnostic context of this disease and implement prevention policies and campaigns.