

HAE Patients in Ukraine Under War Conditions

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Background

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation attacked Ukraine, causing a mass migration of Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war. Patients with HAE were no exception. The situation is complicated by special needs, considering sensitivity to triggers, orphan drugs, access to medical facilities. Understanding the routes of migration of patients is important both from a humanitarian point of view and understanding the need for treatment, because in Ukraine, the state provision of treatment is tied to the place of residence.

Purpose

The purpose is to study the impact of war on the fate of patients with HAE. Materials and methods. A Google form with questions was created and distributed on social media among patients with PID and HAE and the doctors who care for them. Answers were received from 106 people, among them 40 patients with HAE.

Results

Almost half of the respondents (18/40; 45%) had to change their place of residence due to the start of the war.

11 of them moved to another region of Ukraine, 7 went abroad. Three patients were in the occupied territory. 40% could not answer the question

Where are you right now? 27 replies



about their future plans, reflecting instability and frustration.

Countries patients from Ukraine moved: Poland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Bulgaria. Everyone wants to come back home either as soon as possible, or after the end of the war.

About 30% of patients had problems with access to treatment due to the war, 73% continue to receive medicine due to the state of Ukraine, only 1 patient receives medicine at the expense of another state, and 23% do not receive medicine at all.

Do you think that the triggers causing the attacks have changes since the war began? 27 replies





Did you have to move because of the war? 27 replies



Has the number of attacks increased compared to the pre-war period? 27 replies



at the beginning of the war, first 2-3 months

constantly since the beginning of the war

Conclusion

The war had a significant impact on the migration of patients with HAE and their access to treatment. Nevertheless, in Ukraine, the state provision of medicines is available for the majority of patients. It is necessary to develop effective programs to support patients in need of orphan drugs.

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Image source: nytimes.com/article/russia-invades-ukraine-photos.html