

DETECTION OF NEW DISEASES

Pediatricians are warning of cases of severe hepatitis in Europe

So far, it has not been registered in Andorra or Catalonia, although Spain confirms five cases

Doctors warn that there is no way to prevent it, but call for «calm»

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Cases of unknown childhood hepatitis that are appearing in northern European countries and, more recently, in Spain could have their origin in some infectious cause. As pediatric gastroenterologist Helena de Diego told EL PERIÒDIC, «judging by the type of incidents reported so far in countries such as the United Kingdom, there are many indications that point to an infection, although there is no firm evidence that's what it's all about». However, those cases that have confirmed the appearance of adenoviruses, which have been a small percentage of the total, indicate that there may be a close relationship with hepatitis. Similarly, experts are debating the possibility of some form of poisoning. The profile of children vul-

The novelty lies in the record of many patients with forms of liver inflammation in a very short time

nerable to this disease of unknown origin is children under the age of 16 «because their immune system is not fully developed and is still a little immature to fight this type of condition,» she said. In this sense, professionals establish the main problem in the detection of the disease, «which does not correspond to hepatitis A, B, C, D or E which are the most common». However, although a total of five cases have been detected in Spain (one of which has required a liver transplant), neither in Catalonia nor in the Principality there has been any infection.

The health authorities recommend that calm should be maintained, as there is no way to prevent it, but, according to Diego, «you need to be calm and very attentive to the evolution of cases and possible outbreaks; however, we are in a very premature phase. « Following



► Entrance to the building of the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS).

HELENA DE DIEGO
GASTROENTEROLOGIST PEDIATRICIAN

«Under no circumstances can the virus be killed directly, but its infections can be alleviated»

«It is usually a mild disease, although more severe cases require transplants»

the same line, the pediatrician stated that «if parents notice that their children change their skin color to a more yellowish tone or that their urine becomes excessively dark, they should go to the doctor to follow the diagnosis process». In this sense, one of the key indicators for the early detection of this condition is jaundice, which is manifested by the change in skin color, the abnormality of the color of urination and episodes of itching.

With regard to treatment, health officials warn that there is no way to kill a virus directly, but «infections caused by this condition can be treated with drugs to protect the liver,» said Diego. In many cases, hepatitis resolves on its own or is asymptoma-

tic in the patient, although in the most extreme cases, treatments require a liver transplant. Regarding the hypothetical relationship between the coronavirus vaccine and the emergence of unknown hepatitis in children, the pediatrician said that «there is no kind of relationship between one thing and another, because many of the children who have been diagnosed with hepatitis were not vaccinated against covid.

However, de Diego added that this situation «is nothing new and, in fact, there are some diseases whose origin has not yet been determined», the novelty lies in the fact that detected many cases with inflammation of the liver in a very short period of time. ≡

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«The legacy of 'La Senyoreta' is the most important ever received by the Andorran people»

JOSEFINA PORRAS I NÚRIA GRAS Authors of 'La Senyoreta'

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La Senyoreta is a book written by four hands between Josefina Porrás and Núria Gras about Maria Lluïsa de Riba, the last heiress of Casa Rossell of Ordino, who left her legacy all over the country when she died unmarried and without children. In life, however, she was an extraordinary woman who, despite living in the shadow of the men of the house –as was the custom at the time –also skied, rode and mastered weapons.

-Who is Maria Lluïsa de Riba?

-Maria Lluïsa de Riba Cassany is the last heiress of Casa Rossell, the protagonist of our book. Born in 1907 into one of the most important families in Ordino and Andorra from an economic and political point of view. With his death in 1993, without issue or having testified, the Government of Andorra inherits his legacy considered the most important ever received by the Andorran people.

-Why did you want to write a book about her?

-We were curious to discover the life of the last heiress of Casa Rossell, a character who has been talked about locally, but who has not transcended. However, she was part of a family with very important public figures, including Antoni Fiter i Rossell (1706-1748), editor of the Manual Digest (1748). With the death of the Miss one of the most important dynasties in the country was extinct, it was necessary to open a window and make this character known to the people of Andorra, we believe that all the little stories deserve to be told.

-Why do you call her La Senyoreta?

-She was called the Miss for the claims of the lineage to belong to the nobility. She demanded that everyone treat her like a young lady and not by her first name. In this way he made a difference with the rest of her fellow citizens.

-Did you know her?

-We didn't know her directly, despite having her close to home, she isolated herself from everyone in her old age. And she was rarely seen.



▶▶ Josefina Porrás and Núria Gras during the presentation of the book.



«With the death of the Miss, one of the most important dynasties was extinguished and its character had to be made known»

«Her position allowed her to be an advanced woman in her time, but the Ordino of the 1930s was anachronistic and patriarchal»

-Is it really a biography or is there also a bit of a novel?

-It's completely biographical, no fictional ingredients have been added. That is why we cannot categorically state many assumptions of what she thought.

-They say that she was advanced at her time, why?

-Her social position allowed her to dedicate herself to aspects such as skiing, horseback riding, mastering weapons, and a passion for fashion that other women could not at the time. Yes, we can say that she was an advanced woman in her time, although you think that in Ordino in the 1930s she had to live through an era of anachronistic, patriarchal institutions and inequalities towards women.



-She still lived in his brother's shadow, didn't she?

-Both she and her brother were undivided heirs, but their anachronistic and traditional times, as described above, made the roles of men and women different. The head of the house, the man, was in charge of the reins, he was the pater familias, he was the administrator of the patrimony. In the case of the Miss she yielded to her brother governing the estate, and we suspect that she was allowed to rule.

-Why did she never get married or have children being so extraordinary?

-We have found several hypotheses, one that was too self-demanding in the search for the ideal man. The other is that his brother decides when, how, and with whom.

-How was the experience of writing with four hands?

-If at first it was innovative and unpublished by both, in the end it turned out to be very positive, we were disciplined and above all we were very coordinated.

-How did you carry out the research work?

-We have divided it into two parts, one in the documentation of the ANA (National Archive of Andorra) and the other with contributions from interviews with neighbors and friends. We have also used a lot of bibliography to describe its time and its environment.

-How will you live this Sant Jordi that has returned to a certain normality?

-With a longing for time to allow us to enjoy it, but above all to recover a party with a little joy as in other years before the pandemic, in short, to resume the thread of this holiday normally. ≡

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