Eradicate Hep C: High re-infection rates among PWIDs treated successfully for hepatitis C in a community needle and syringe programme

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Study aims



 Can 100 HCV+ <u>highly</u> active PWIDs be successfully recruited and treated for HCV through a NSP?

2. What are rates of **reinfection**?





Key Results

Demographics

- Mean age 34 years, 71% male.
- 94% unemployed
- 1/5 homeless/unstable housing, 12.8 % in prison during study
- 18% significant fibrosis (F2-F4)

Injecting practices

- Inject median 6.5 times/week
- 54.3% inject ≥ day

Harm reduction

- 82% had 100% NSP coverage
- 63% on OST prior to enrolment









Key study outcomes



1. SVR-12: 82% (77/94)

2. ≥80% Treatment adherence: 71.3% (67/94)



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Reinfection rate

6-month reinfection rate: **23.53/100 p-yrs** (95% CI 9.80-56.54) (5/77 participants). Total follow-up time 21.25 p-yrs.

18-month reinfection rate: **21.5/100 p-yrs** (95% Cl 13.00-35.65)(15/77 participants). Total follow up time 69.79 p-yrs.

18-month mortality rate: 5.55/100 p-yrs (95% CI 2.77-11.09) (8/94). Total follow up time 144.24 p-yrs.

Why are reinfection rates so high?

Current estimates among PWIDs:

- 2 Meta-analyses: pooled re-infection rate: 1.77/100pyrs to 2.4/100pyrs (Simmons 2016, Aspinall 2013).

- 4.9/100 pyrs- relapsed PWID (Midgard 2016)
- 5.7/100 pyrs- individuals hospitalised for drug-related cause (Weir 2016).

• But...different study population

Previous studies define '**active**'= injected last 6-12 months

(Grebely 2016, Newman 2013, Weir 2016, Islam 2017, Midgard 2016, Dalgard 2002, Greebly 2010, Marco 2013)

• (or 3-months- Hilsden 2013).







Implications?



- This is a high risk population
- No behaviour change following treatment?
- NSP and OST not enough?
- Treating the reinfections





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- Successful pathway of care for 'hard to reach' population
- High reinfection rate

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Questions?

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