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Point-of-care finger-stick HCV RNA testing:
Broadening access to testing in the community

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Disclosures

- Research and travel support from Abbott, Cepheid and Gilead



Today: Finger-stick HCV RNA testing.....

1. An opportunity to achieve “test and treat”
 2. The evidence so far
 3. Lessons learned
 4. Integration into screening strategies
-



1. HCV finger-stick RNA testing – an opportunity

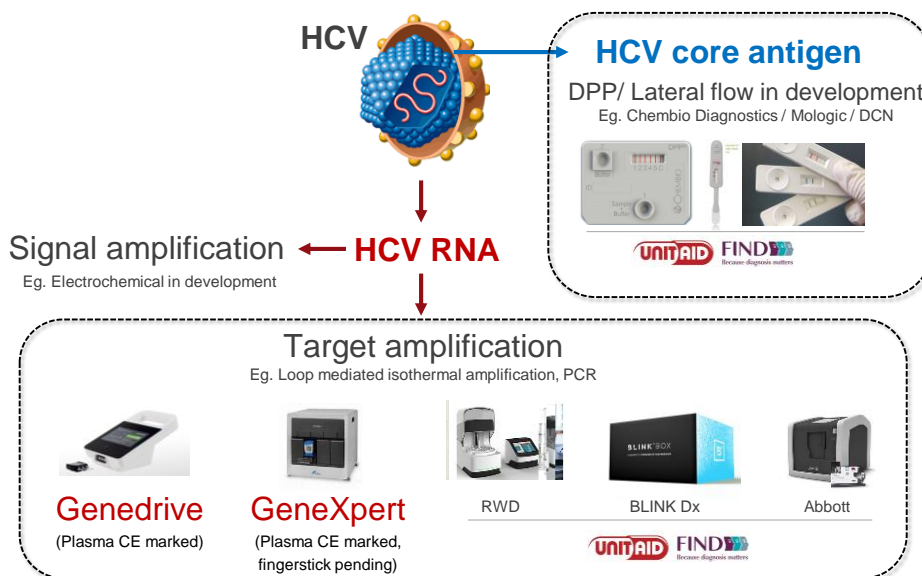
Immediate need for simple, affordable HCV testing

“The Holy Grail”



Applegate TL et al, *Infect Dis Clin N Am*, 2018, Grebely J et al, *Exp Rev Mol Diag* 2017

Point of care testing for active infection





GeneXpert® Diagnostic Systems



- ✓ • Automated, self-contained, single use, random access
- ✓ • Single platform for integration (HIV, HPV, TB)
- ✓ • Minimal training, fast (~ 60-120min)
- ✓ • Cost ~\$15-17 (ex-works) per test in lower income countries
- ✓ • > 17,000 instruments placed



HCV RNA - Xpert® HCV Viral Load assay (plasma)

- Easy-to-use point-of-care HCV RNA test



- Real-world performance for HCV RNA quantification very good
 - Xpert HCV Viral Load (plasma) – Sensitivity 99%, Sensitivity 96%¹
 - Modified finger-stick assay (plasma cartridge) – Sensitivity 98%, Sensitivity 99%²
- WHO pre-qualified, CE - IVD marked (not yet available in Australia)

1. McHugh J *Clin Micro* 2017; 2. Grebely J, et al. *Lancet Gastro Hep* 2017



HCV RNA - Xpert® HCV Viral Load Fingerstick assay

- Developed in collaboration with FIND (*Foundation for New Innovative Diagnostics*)



Advantages

- Less invasive
- Easy collection
- No sample preparation
- Direct loading
- Minimal expertise
- Quick result

Awarded CE-IVD marking 19th Sep 2018



2. HCV finger-stick RNA testing – the evidence so far

LIVER LIFE



A liver health promotion intervention integrating point of care HCV RNA testing and non-invasive liver disease screening to enhance HCV assessment and treatment in drug and alcohol settings

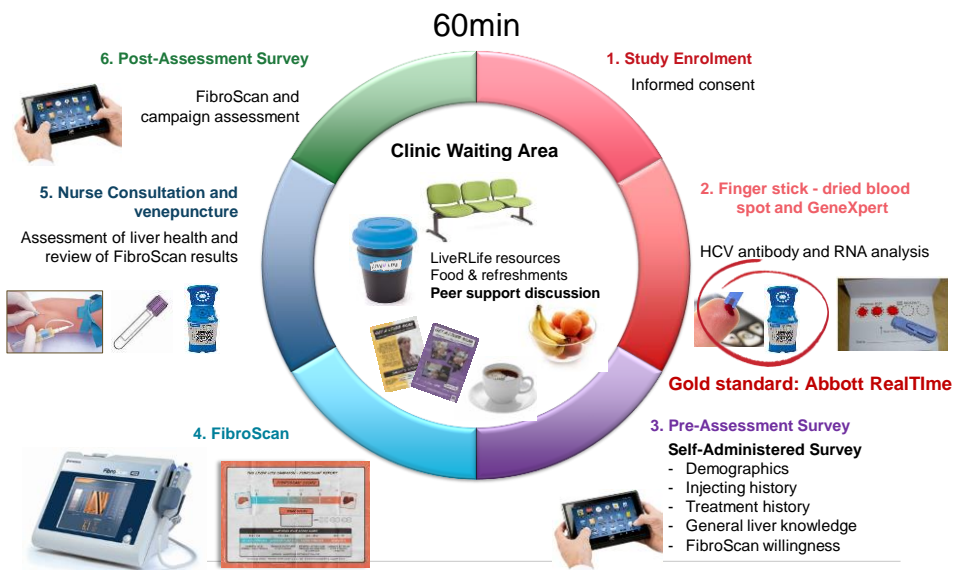
Phase I - Development and testing of liver health messages

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRINTED RESOURCES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSTER CAMPAIGN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHORT FILM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FIBROSCAN REPORT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUDY WEBSITE

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The Kirby Institute, 2018

LIVER LIFE Phase II - campaign days (n > 1000)



The Kirby Institute, 2018

LIVER LIFE

Phase II - campaign days (n > 1000)

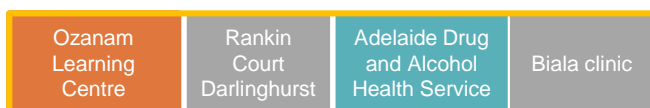


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Sensitivity and specificity

n = 223 recruited, final study population n = 181 (on treatment excluded)



1x Homeless service



3x Opioid substitution treatment clinics

Results:

Xpert® HCV (≥10 IU/mL)	Abbott RealTime (≥12 IU/mL)		Total
	Quantifiable	Unquantifiable	
Quantifiable	59	0	59
Unquantifiable	0	106	106
Total	59	106	165
Sensitivity	100.0% (95%CI, 92.4 – 100.0%)		
Specificity	100.0% (95%CI, 95.6 - 100.0%)		

Note: One sample not detected by Xpert® HCV VL FS assay while it was detected but below the limit of quantification (<12 IU/mL) by the Abbott RealTime assay.

Lamoury F et al, Journal of Infectious Disease, 2018



Multi-country finger-stick RNA assay evaluation

Abbott RealTime HCV VL

Preliminary data from sites	N	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)
Georgia (NCDC, HRS HEPA+)	287	95.8 (91.2-98.1)	100 (97.4-100)
Cameroon (CPC)	177	99.2 (95.6-99.9)	100 (93-100)
Greece (Hellenic Society for the Study and Control of AIDS)	148	96.3 (89.8-98.8)	100 (94.5-100)
Malaysia (Hospital Selayang)	78	100 (95.1-100)	100 (43.8-100)
US (Biollections Ltd.)	193	100 (88.3-100)	100 (97.7-100)



Multi-country finger-stick RNA assay evaluation

Abbott RealTime HCV VL

Xpert plasma HCV VL

Preliminary data from sites	ID %	N	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)	N	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)
Georgia (NCDC, HRS HEPA+)	4.3	287	95.8 (91.2-98.1)	100 (97.4-100)	287	93.2 (87.9-96.3)	100 (97.3-100)
Cameroon (CPC)	8	177	99.2 (95.6-99.9)	100 (93-100)	182	99.2 (95.8-99.9)	100 (93-100)
Greece (Hellenic Society for the Study and Control of AIDS)	1.3	148	96.3 (89.8-98.8)	100 (94.5-100)	148	97.5 (91.4-99.3)	100 (94.6-100)
Malaysia (Hospital Selayang)	2.5	78	100 (95.1-100)	100 (43.8-100)	77	100 (95.1-100)	100 (43.8-100)
US (Biollections Ltd.)	4.4	193	100 (88.3-100)	100 (97.7-100)	193	96.7 (83.3-99.4)	100 (97.7-100)
All	4.5%	883	97.8 (96-98.8)	100 (99.1-100)	887	97 (95-98.2)	100 (99.1-100)

ID = Rates of indeterminate results per site



Multi-country finger-stick RNA assay evaluation

Performance in HCV RISK group (one-step Dx)

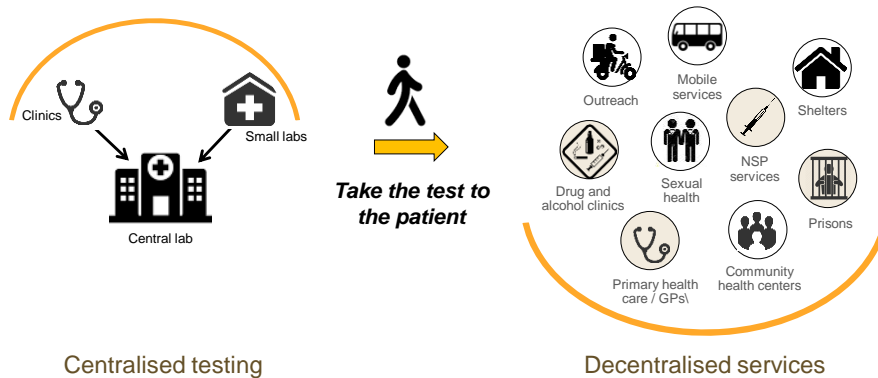
Reference test	N	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)
Abbott RealTime HCV VL	339	96.4 [87.9-99]	100 [98.7-100]
Xpert plasma HCV VL	339	88.5 [78.2-94.3]	100 [98.6-100]



3. HCV finger-stick RNA testing – lessons learned

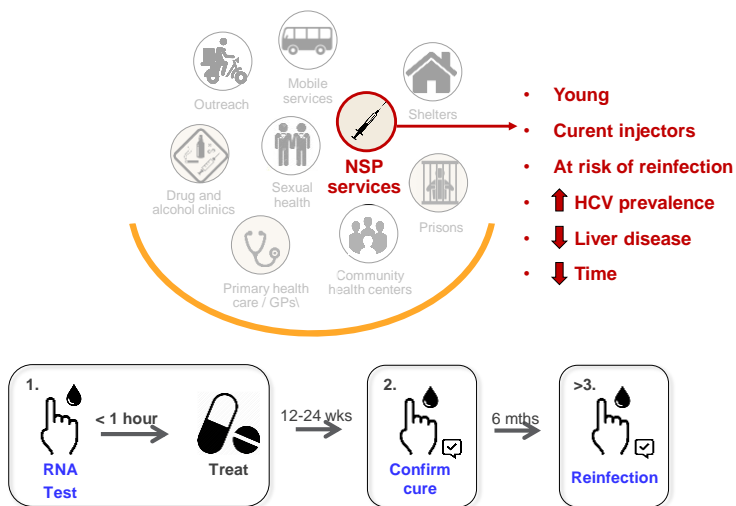
HCV finger-stick RNA testing – screening strategies

An “ecosystem” of diagnostic solutions



Where might point of care HCV RNA testing work?

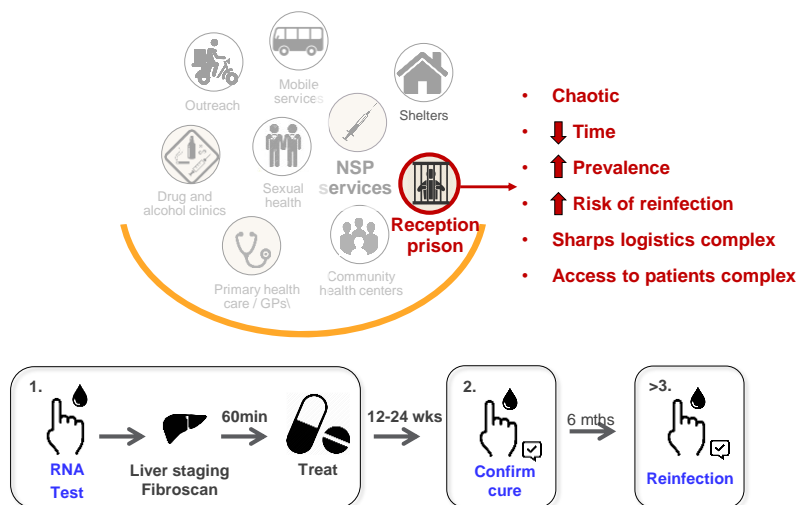
Each site is unique – e.g. needle and syringe services



RNA HCV “test and treat” without liver staging

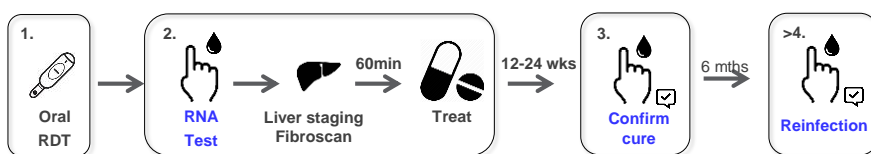
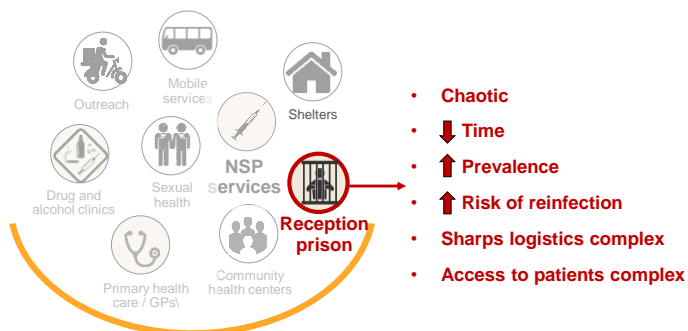
Adapted from Applegate TL et al, NA Clinics Infectious Disease, 2018

Each site is unique – e.g. reception prisons



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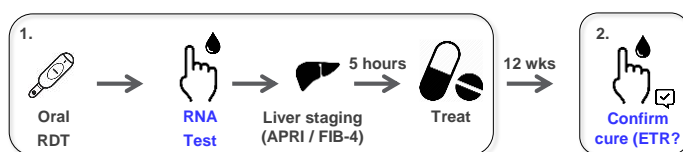
Adapted from Applegate TL et al, NA Clinics Infectious Disease, 2018

Each site is unique – e.g. Community camps in LMIC



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Adapted from Applegate TL et al, NA Clinics Infectious Disease, 2018

HCV finger-stick RNA testing – key messages



HCV finger-stick RNA point-of-care assay

1. Detects active infection with high performance in < 1 hour
 2. One-step diagnostic solution allowing towards “test and treat”
 3. Likely to enhance screening to scale up care in marginalised populations
 4. Further research for real world implementation
 5. Further reduction in cost and time is needed
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LIVER LIFE

Acknowledgments

Study participants

The Kirby Institute, UNSW

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Sahar Bajis
Danica Martinez
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 - **Funders** (had no role in design, analysis and reporting)
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 - This study was performed in collaboration with Cepheid. Cepheid donated Xpert cartridges to study sites for use during the clinical study and provided GX4 systems. Cepheid staff has supported training of study staff in Cameroon, Greece, Malaysia, US and Denmark on site monitoring visits to Greece, Denmark and Georgia sites. Cepheid has provided funding to the US site (Biocollections Ltd.).
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Thank you.....