Hepatitis C treatment in community pharmacies:

An effective way of ensuring excellent SVR rates in people on opiate substitution therapy.

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Disclosures

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Background/aims

- With the introduction of interferon free direct acting antivirals (DAAs) for hepatitis C, the need for regular hospital visits to monitor side effects and adverse blood results has reduced.
- There is concern that less hospital visits reduce the opportunity to monitor compliance.
- In our centre all DAAs medication is now supplied via a community pharmacy rather than via the specialist service within the clinic setting.
- Patients on opiate substitution therapy are given HCV treatment (daily, weekly) at the same time

Methods

- The study aimed to monitor treatment completion rates and outcomes in all individuals receiving oral treatments comparing patients on opiate substitution therapy (OST) to non OST patients.
- The study was carried out between April 2015 and December 2016
- A total of 195 were included in the study. Cohort A (97) had treatment dispensed daily in a community pharmacy with their OST. Cohort B (98) the control group were dispensed weekly or 4 weekly.

Results

- In cohort A, 75 (77.3%) were genotype 1, 33 (34%) had cirrhosis, 14 (14.4%) were previous treatment failures.
- In cohort B, 81 (82.6%) were genotype 1, 29 (29.5%) had cirrhosis and 29 (29.5%) were past treatment failures.

Results (cont'd)

- 93 (96%) in cohort A completed full course of treatment and 97 (99%) in cohort B.
- To date SVR results were available in 171 patients.
- 75/82 (91.4%) in cohort A and 81/89 (91%) in cohort B achieved an SVR.
- There were 5 deaths, 3 from decompensating cirrhosis and 2 for accidental overdose.
- The main treatment failures were in genotype 3 cirrhotics

Conclusions/implications

- In this study completion of therapy was excellent in both cohorts. Dispensing treatment daily at the same time as OST is an effective way of achieving high SVR rates.
- Routine provision of HCV treatment does not need to be provided within specialist service. This could have a significant impact when deciding in which care settings treatment can be provided.

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- Any questions?