

Knowledge of hepatitis C and awareness of reinfection among people who successfully completed direct acting antiviral therapy

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Disclosure: The study was supported by the Merck Canada Incorporation, British Columbia Ministry of Health Services, and University of British Columbia Strategic Excellence Fund. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

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Background & Method

- Hepatitis C virus (HCV) education may be changing following simplification of HCV treatment and emergence of direct acting antiviral (DAA).
- We aimed to characterize HCV knowledge among people who recently completed DAA therapy.
- **The Per-SVR** (Preservation of Sustained Virologic Response) study is a prospective cohort of patients who achieved a sustained virologic response upon successful completion of DAA therapy.
- The per-SVR study provided the sampling frame of participants who completed a psychometrically validated HCV knowledge scale at cohort entry (n=227).
- We assessed mean HCV knowledge score in the overall sample and mutually exclusive key populations.
- Using a latent class analysis based on distal outcome, we identified unobserved subgroups and assessed HCV knowledge score amongst them.



Results

Table 1. Sample Characteristics, n (%)

Median age (Q1,Q3)	52 (44,59)
Gender (cis & transgender)	
Men	147 (64.7)
Women	75 (33.0)
Homelessness (ever)	172 (75.7)
Mental Disorder (ever)	117 (51.4)
Injection Drug Use (ever)	191 (84.1)
Regular Primary Care Access	182 (80.1)

Table Footnotes:

- Variables are mutually exclusive.
- P-values were derived from Kruskal-Wallis test.
- **PWID:** people who injected drugs in the last twelve months.

Table 2. Mean percent of correct responses to HCV knowledge scale within the overall sample and among the key populations

HCV Knowledge	Overall sample (n=227)	PWID (n=71)	HIV Coinfection (n=23)	PWID & HIV Coinfection (n=29)	Others (n=104)	p-value
Total mean % of correct answers (SD)	83 (11)	83 (10)	79 (12)	81 (10)	84 (11)	0.10
Mean % of correct answers to transmission questions (SD)	87 (11)	88 (10)	83 (12)	85 (13)	88 (12)	0.27
Mean % of correct answers to vaccination questions, (SD)	77 (29)	78 (28)	72 (33)	78 (29)	78 (29)	0.86
Mean % of correct answers to re-infection questions (SD)	91 (21)	92 (19)	89 (21)	90 (25)	90 (21)	0.96



Results Cont. - Latent Class Analysis (LCA)

Table 3. Comparison of HCV knowledge between latent classes identified using LCA

HCV Knowledge	Latent Class 1 (n = 126)	Latent Class 2 (n = 68)	Latent Class 3 (n = 18)	P-value
Total mean % of correct answers (SD)	82 (11)	85 (8)	85 (10)	0.26
Mean % of correct answers to transmission questions (SD)	86 (12)	90 (8)	90 (11)	0.07
Mean % of correct answers to vaccination questions, (SD)	79 (30)	76 (27)	0.83 (0.24)	0.38
Mean % of correct answers to re-infection questions (SD)	90 (22)	94 (16)	86 (23)	0.23

Latent Class 1: baby boomers who ever experienced homelessness

Latent Class 2: women sex workers who ever experienced homelessness

Latent Class 3: men with indication of injection drug use who ever experienced homelessness and had ever diagnosis of mental health disorders

Footnote: p-values were derived from Kruskal-Wallis test.



Conclusion & Acknowledgement

- Patients successfully treated with DAAs had high HCV knowledge.
 - Awareness of reinfection among patient groups often facing complex social realities to HCV care is encouraging and emphasizes the positive outcomes of universal access to treatment.
 - Continued evaluation of HCV knowledge among those who complete DAA treatment will be important to ensure that ongoing engagement in follow-up care for those requiring surveillance for prevention of HCV re-infection, is maintained.
- We respectfully acknowledge that we work and live on the traditional unceded territories of the x^wmə θ k^wək^wəy̓ y̓əm (Musqueam Nation), Skwxwú 7 mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and seseł ı́ ı́ł ı́ witulh (Tsleil Waututh Nation).
 - We acknowledge and honour the contributions of all study participants, study sites, partners in the per-SVR cohort, and all people who allocated their time and expertise to make this study happen.