

REAL-WORLD TREATMENT DATA FROM A NEEDLE EXCHANGE WITH A HIGH PREVALENCE OF HCV AND AMPHETAMINE USE

Kåberg M^{1,2}, Värmå Falk M¹, Lang AM¹, Näslund L¹, Celander A¹

1. The Stockholm Needle Exchange Program, Stockholm Centre for Dependency Disorders, Stockholm, Sweden,
2. Department of Medicine Huddinge, Division of Infectious Diseases, Karolinska Institute, at Karolinska University Hospital Huddinge, Stockholm, Sweden,

Background: Annually, around 1800 persons make 26 000 visits at the Stockholm Needle Exchange Program (NEP). 43% inject mainly heroin and 43% amphetamine. Mean age is 39 years and mean duration of injection drug use is 18 years. 21% are homeless. HCV prevalence is 55%. Although injection risk behaviors are significantly reduced over time among participants, HCV incidence remains high (22/100 person years).

Methods: Since January 1st 2018 participants at the Stockholm NEP are offered HCV treatment with no reimbursement restrictions. Fibrosis stages F0-F3 are mainly treated with 8 weeks of sofosbuvir/ledispavir or glecaprevir/pibentavir. Patients are HCV RNA tested every 6 months post SVR.

Results: So far 97 participants (75% amphetamine users) have initiated HCV treatment. 70/76 (91%) were HCV RNA negative at end of treatment (EOT), 5 participants dropped out 1-2 weeks after treatment initiation and one after 6 weeks. Overall, 47/56 (84%) reached SVR 12 (6 drop-outs and 3 lost to follow-up). Thus, all participants who completed treatment (n=70) were HCV RNA negative at EOT and all with a follow-up visit at SVR 12 (n=47) were HCV RNA negative. Four reinfections occurred post-SVR, representing a reinfection rate of 15/100 PY. One reinfection was spontaneously cleared, leaving a persistent reinfection rate of 11/100 PY. On a parallel level, there were 92 new HCV infections in the non-treated cohort during 2018.

Discussion: Even though 8-10% of the HCV viremic patients were treated at the Stockholm NEP in 2018, the number of new HCV infections were on the same level. A high prevalence of HCV and amphetamine users (not eligible for OST) constitutes a great challenge for HCV elimination. Further treatment- and reinfection data is pending and will be presented at the conference.

Disclosure of interest: MK has been a speaker and participated in advisory boards for Abbvie, Gilead and MSD/Merck and has received grants from Gilead.