

# FIRST LINE SCREENING BY FIBROSCAN IN A POPULATION AT HIGH RISK FOR HCV INFECTION

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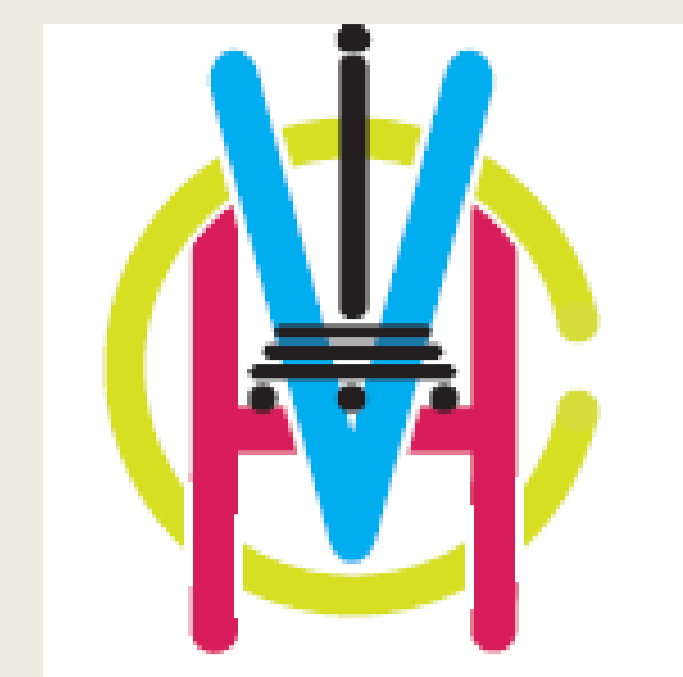
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## Background :

Patients who inject drugs (PWID) are at high risk for HCV infection and transmission. Unfortunately, they usually do not receive adequate care although they should be considered top-priority for HCV treatment. Furthermore, most of them are not aware of their HCV infection.

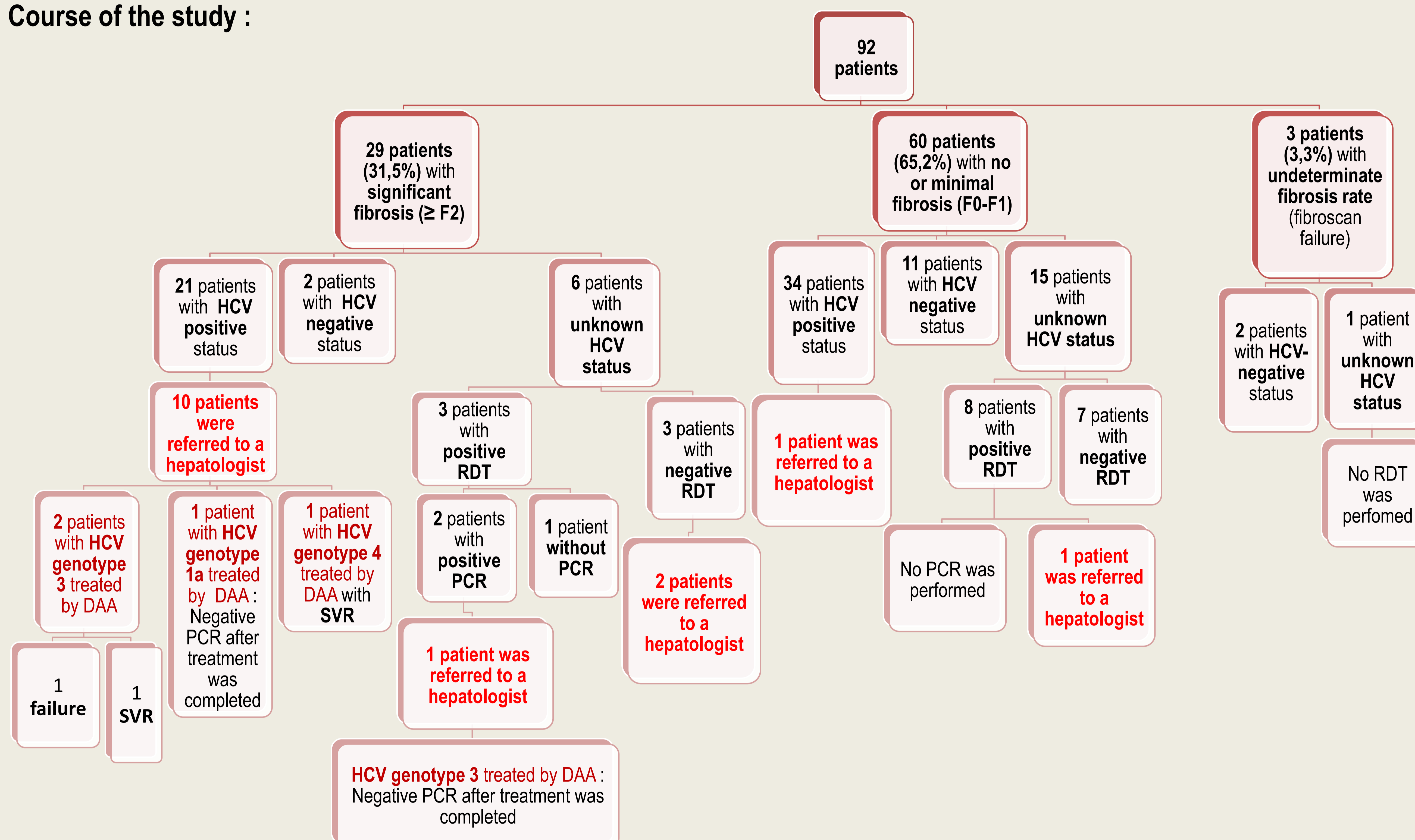
Currently, Belgian patients can only access treatment if they show a significant fibrosis (Metavir  $\geq$  F2), confirmed by 2 non-invasive tests (transient elastography + biological fibrosis score) that matches or by liver biopsy.

The aim of this study is to **assess the efficacy of Fibroscan as screening procedure in first line care centers to improve PWID management.**

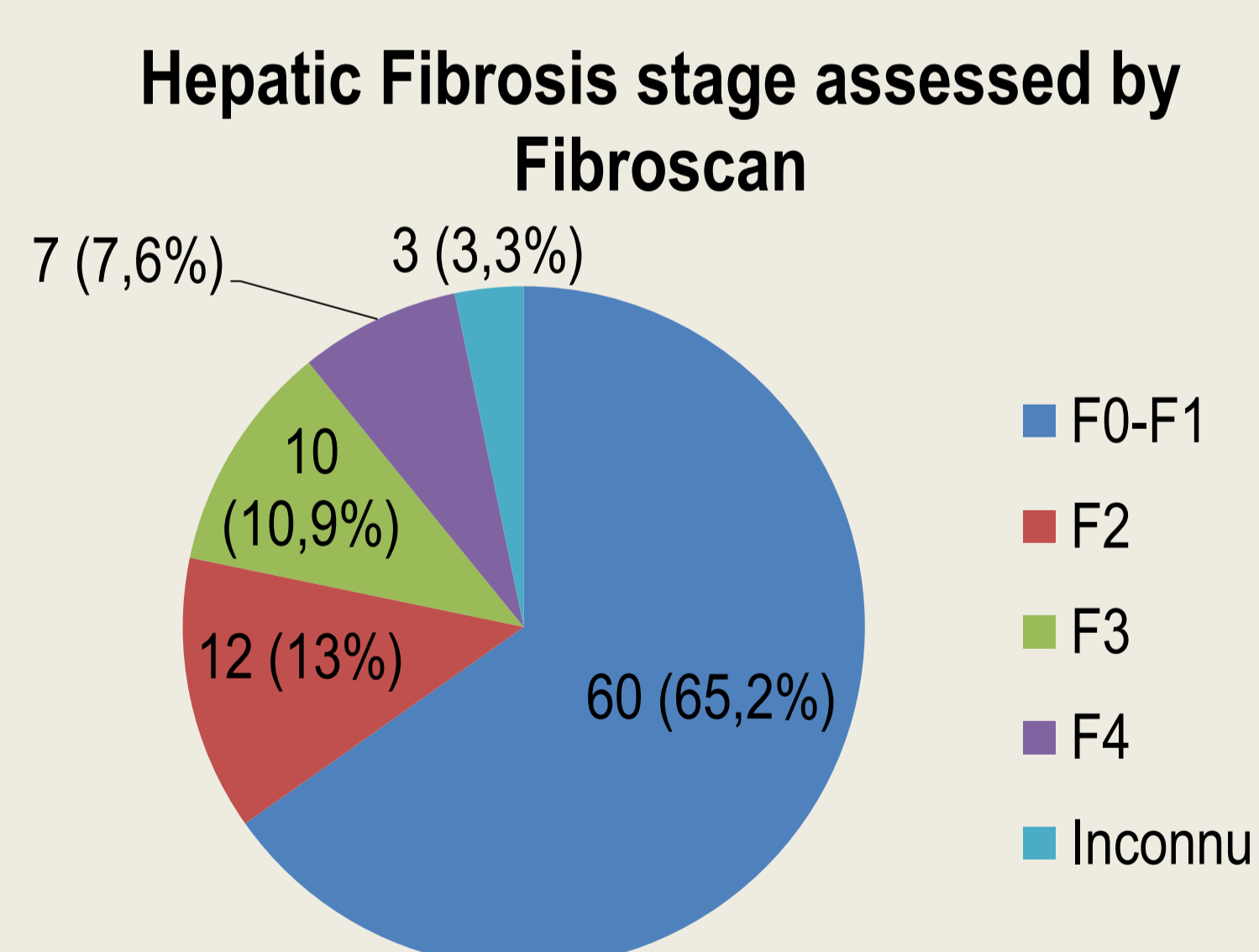
## Methods :

For 1 year, PWID from 3 first line care centers in Liège, Belgium, were offered Fibroscan. Those with unknown HCV status were also offered an HCV screening by Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT).

## Course of the study :

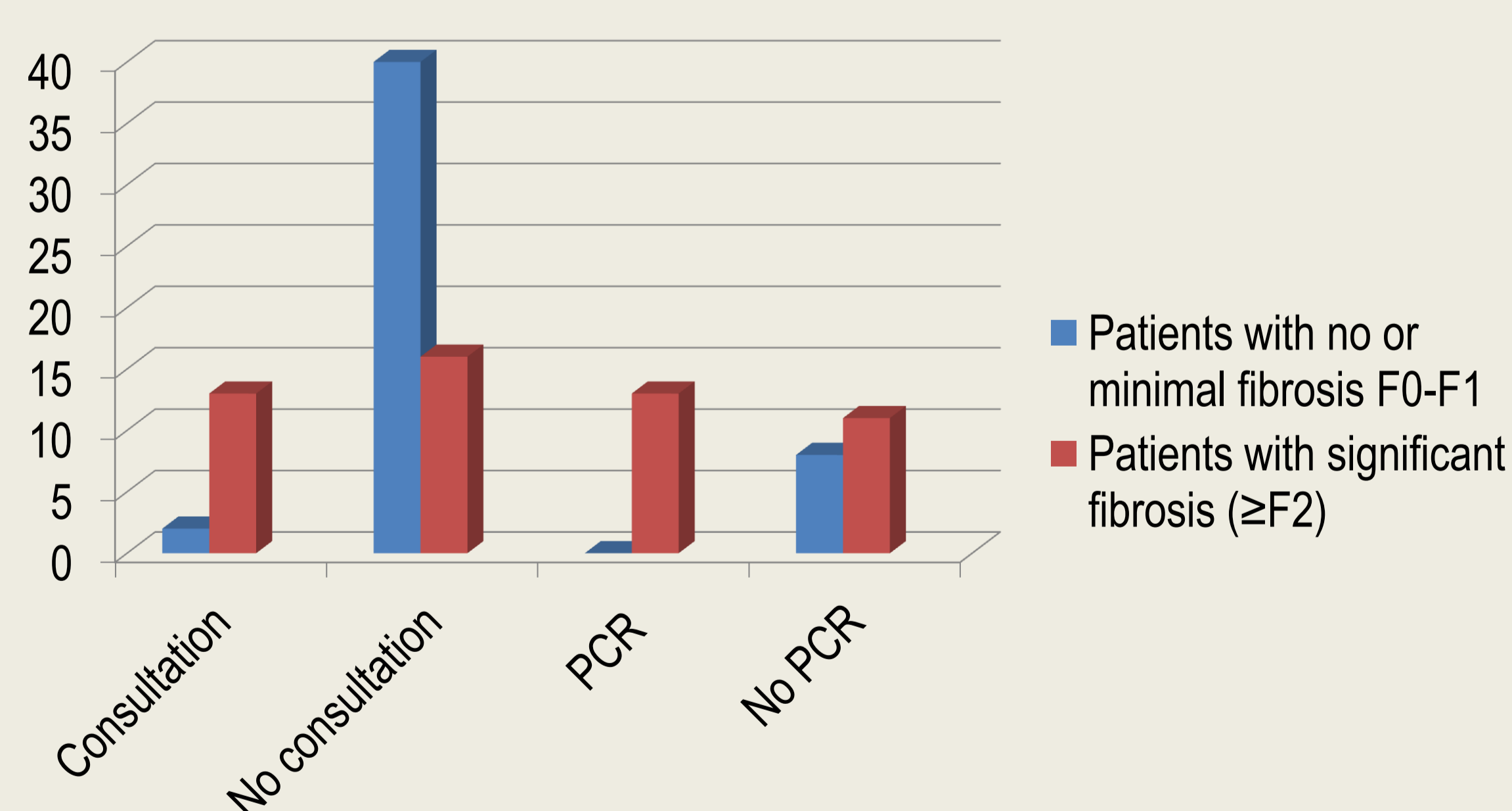


## Results :



Nearly one third of these patients had significant liver fibrosis when fibroscan was performed.

## Outpatient clinic in hepatology and PCR after the study depending on the liver fibrosis rate.



## Conclusion :

Fibroscan is a useful, easy to handle, noninvasive tool to screen PWID for liver fibrosis.

Fibroscan combined with RDT should help to convince this reluctant population to accept adequate medical care and to refer HCV patients who are eligible for treatment to an outpatient hepatology clinic.

It is also helpful to refer patients with liver fibrosis due to other etiologies and globally improve PWID management.

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