

## **STUDY OF COMPLIANCE IN IV DRUG USERS WITH HEPATITIS C. 10 YEARS FOLLOW UP DATA FROM A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN GREECE.**

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**Background:** Intravenous drug use is a major means of transmission of viral hepatitis and HIV. The purpose of this study is to investigate the compliance to therapy and follow up of intravenous drug users (IVDU) with chronic Active Hepatitis C being followed in the Hepatology Unit in a University hospital in Greece.

**Methods:** We studied retrospectively 228 IV drug users (IVDU) with chronic Active Hepatitis C or co-infection with HIV and/or HBV followed in Hepatology Unit of a University Hospital in Athens, Greece from 2007 till 2018. Data were recorded from the first encounter of the patient with the facility until the end of 2018 concerning the percentage of lost to follow up IVDU, as well as the percentage of patients who received and completed treatment.

**Results:** From 228 patients studied 82% were men. 81% of patients had chronic Hepatitis C, 16% co-infection with HIV and 3% with HBV. Only 9.8% had been diagnosed with stage F4 fibrosis. 62.9% had discontinued the iv drug use. 66.6% were lost to follow up. Treatment for Hepatitis C received 29.5% of the IVDU studied. The majority of IVDU under treatment received PEG/RBV (55.5%), while 44.5% received DAAs. From the IVDU who received treatment, 82.5% completed treatment and 100% of patients who received DAAs. All patients treated with DAAs achieved SVR.

**Conclusions:** The results from this study of IVDU conducted during 2007-2018 in a Hepatology Unit in Athens, suggest that a large percentage of patients (66.6%) were lost to follow up in spite of free access in monitoring and treatment. In contrast, 82.5% of patients treated, completed treatment successfully remaining under follow-up. From those receiving DAAs, 100% completed treatment and achieved SVR.

**Disclosure of interest statement:** None to disclose