Knowledge Around Direct Acting Antiviral Therapies and Willingness To Undergo HCV Treatment Among Rural Appalachian Opioid Users

Jennifer R. Havens, PhD, MPH
Center on Drug and Alcohol Research

Disclosures

Jennifer Havens serves on an advisory panel for Gilead
Snapshot of HCV in SNAP Study

503 opioid users followed since 2008

• **42.9%** overall prevalence at baseline (2008-2010)
• **115** incident (new) cases
• **65.8%** overall prevalence in 2018 (331 of 503 participants have been exposed to the hepatitis C virus)
• **73.3%** RNA-positive (treatment eligible)

Methods – HCV Knowledge and Willingness Substudy

• Awareness of DAAs, including specifics about the treatment
  – True/false and multiple choice
  – Correct answers were provided after the question was answered
  – Survey/education
• Willingness to undergo treatment with DAAs
  – Under specific circumstances would be more likely to initiate treatment
Methods – HCV Knowledge and Willingness Substudy

• Eligibility criteria: positive anti-HCV test at one of the previous study visits
• 113 participants have completed survey to date
• Descriptive statistics presented

Awareness of DAAs

True or false: There are new hepatitis C treatments (direct acting antivirals – DAAs) that have very few side effects and high chance of curing the disease.

87.6% of participants were aware of DAAs
Awareness:
Duration of Treatment

Multiple Choice: How long do these new treatments typically take to cure hepatitis C?

Less than a quarter (23%) answered 12 weeks. The most common response was 6 months (45.1%), followed by 1 year (26.5%)

Awareness:
Cost

Multiple Choice: What is the cost for a single hepatitis C treatment course if you are to pay for it yourself (no insurance)?

Most (89.4%) were aware of the costs being in the tens of thousands ($15k - $90k) of dollars if paid out-of-pocket
Awareness: Cure

Multiple Choice: How high is the chance of cure with the new hepatitis C treatments?

The majority of participants (68.1%) indicated that cure rates were 90% or greater.

Awareness: Immunity

True or false: I will be immune to the virus; i.e., I will be protected against getting the virus again after being cured.

69% of participants were under the impression that DAAs provided immunity to the virus.
Willingness to Undergo Treatment

If these new treatments were offered to me today at little or no cost, I would take them.

95.6% said yes

Two of the four indicating they would not take the drugs have already been treated.

Conclusions

- Awareness of DAAs is high
  - Still some misconceptions that are concerning
    - DURATION OF TREATMENT
    - IMMUNITY
- Willingness to undergo treatment with DAAs is positive
  - More likely if treatments are locally accessible and offered at low to no cost
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