

HCV-INFECTED YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS AND REPRESENTATION IN THE CANHEPC RETROSPECTIVE NATIONAL REGISTRY

Materniak, S^{2,13}, Smyth D^{1,13}, Barrett L¹, Bruneau J³, Coffin CS⁶, Conway B⁴, Haider S⁵, Lee S⁶, MacPhail G^{6,7}, Morales H⁸, Peterson L⁹, Ramji A¹⁰, Stewart K¹¹, Tam E¹², Webster D^{2,13}.

¹Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. ²Center for Research, Education and Clinical care of At-Risk Populations (RECAP), Saint John, Canada, ³Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Quebec, Canada ⁴Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre, British Columbia, Canada, ⁵McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, ⁶University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada ⁷Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS), Alberta, Canada ⁸University Health Network, Ontario, Canada ⁹PerCuro Clinic, British Columbia, Canada ¹⁰GI Research Institute, British Columbia, Canada ¹¹Saskatchewan Infectious Disease Care Network, Saskatchewan, Canada ¹²LAIR Centre, British Columbia, Canada ¹³Horizon Health Network, New Brunswick, Canada

Background:

In Canada, most incident cases of hepatitis C (HCV) occur in those engaged in high risk activities including injection drug use (IDU). Many cases occur in youth (age < 30 years); however limited data exists regarding characteristics and outcomes related to HCV in this cohort since they are less likely to be in stable recovery or are newly infected and not accessing HCV care.

Methods:

The Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC) retrospective registry has combined data on patients with chronic HCV assessed in academic and community sites across Canada. Youth were classified as those < 30 years at baseline. Those with no data regarding age were excluded. Basic means and proportions were calculated for those under and over 30 years with comparisons between the groups made with Fisher's Exact and t-tests, as appropriate.

Results:

Of the 2,658 individuals from 10 centres in 7 Canadian provinces, age was available for 88.2% (n=2,371), of which 8.5% (n=201) were under the age of 30 years (range 18.0-29.6 years). The New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec sites contributed 89.6% of youth cases. In contrast to those over 30 years, youth were more likely to be current IDUs (27.1% vs. 13.5%, p<0.001), indigenous (23.0% vs. 13.5%, p=0.012), have non-genotype 1 HCV infection (35.9% v. 27.1%, p=0.019) and be HCV treatment naïve (75.6% vs. 44.5%, p<0.0001). No significant difference was noted regarding sex, immigrant or HIV status. Sustained virologic response in this youth cohort was 100% (29/29).

Conclusion:

Youth currently account for a small number of patients in the CanHepC retrospective registry and have significant differences in comparison to the older cohort. Further research to understand their characteristics may help develop tailored care models to ensure this cohort is being reached and provided optimal clinical care for HCV.

Disclosure Statement:

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