

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE DURING HCV TREATMENT IN THE REAL LIFE AMONG PWID IN SOUTHERN SWITZERLAND**

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### **Background:**

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) treatment can be successfully administered in People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) if delivered in adequate settings with multidisciplinary models of care. Limited data was published on alcohol and illicit drugs consumption during HCV treatment in the real life.

### **Approach:**

The pattern of drug and alcohol use of PWID on HCV treatment was described according to patient's report and physician's opinion. The results of HCV treatment were put in relationship with the pattern of drug use.

### **Outcome:**

Among 134 treated patients, 47 (35%) referred active illicit drug use during HCV treatment. Of those, 2 were lost the follow-up, 3 died during treatment e 4 encountered a virological failure, with a global sustained virological response 12 week after end of treatment (SVR12) of 90% in an analysis as treated (AT) and 80% in an intent-to-treat (ITT) analysis. Of the 87 patients who denied active drug use, 1 died during treatment and 2 had a virological failure with a SVR12 rate of 98% AT and 97% ITT.

Of 40 patients (30%) who reported elevated alcohol consumption during HCV treatment, 2 were lost from the follow-up, 2 died during HCV treatment and 2 had a virological failure with a SVR12 of 93% (AT) and 85% (ITT). Of 94 patients who denied elevated alcohol consumption, 2 patients died during HCV treatment and 4 had a virological failure with a SVR12 of 96% (AT) and 94% (ITT).

### **Conclusion:**

HCV treatment among alcohol and illicit drug users is effective. Active drug use and elevated alcohol consumption are associated with higher risk of death and premature interruption of HCV treatment. A specialised and integrated care is crucial in this difficult-to-treat population.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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