

HCV CASCADE OF CARE OF PEOPLE ADMITTED TO DRUG TREATMENT (2015-2019) IN CATALONIA

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Background: People who use drugs (PWUD) have high rates of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. This study aims to characterize the HCV cascade of care of people admitted to drug treatment in Catalonia, Spain, by main drug of consumption.

Methods: Data from PWUD admitted to the 61 drug treatment centers (01/2015–12/2019) were derived and linked from three databases: The drug information System; Catalan health surveillance system; and HCV treatment registry. Results are based on main drug of consumption. The cascade was defined in four steps: diagnosis of HCV; initiation of treatment; cure and reinfection. Predictors of HCV treatment access were identified using a multivariable regression model.

Results: 44,306 PWUD were admitted to treatment: 9.6% (4,265) for heroin, 45.8% (20,282) alcohol; 14.3% (6,323) cannabis; 21.2% (9,384) cocaine and 4.3% (1,889) tobacco. Overall, 9.7% (4,278) had a diagnosis of HCV, 46.6% (1,993) had started HCV treatment, 83% (1,053) were cured and 1% (8) were reinfected. HCV cascade by main drug: heroin: 47% (2,004), 51.2% (1,027), 82% (410), no reinfections; alcohol: 5% (1,094), 40% (438), 316 (84%), and 1% (4); cannabis: 3% (173), 45% (78), 90% (57), no reinfections; cocaine: 5% (471), 44% (209), 82% (121), and 2% (3); and tobacco: 5% (93), 54% (50), 40 (98%), no reinfections, respectively. In multivariable analyses, human immunodeficiency virus seropositivity, imprisonment and tobacco users were independently and positively associated with HCV treatment access ($P < .001$), whereas being a woman was independently and negatively associated with HCV treatment access ($P < .001$).

Conclusion: Less than a half of those aware of their HCV infection had engaged in treatment, the lowest percentage is among alcohol abuse patients. Targeted interventions to increase access to treatment among PWUD are essential to reach the WHO target of elimination by 2030.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No disclosures of interest.