

A DEFINITE PATHWAY WAS SUCCESSFUL FOR HCV ELIMINATION IN CASERTA PRISONS

Messina V¹, Nese G², Romano M³, Anecchiarico A⁴, Mensorio M⁴, Matano A⁴, Maggi P¹

¹ UOC Malattie Infettive, A.O.R.N. Caserta, ² UOC Tutela della Salute in Carcere, ASL Caserta;

³ Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, ⁴ Direzione Sanitaria A.O.R.N. Caserta

Background:

HCV prevalence in Italian prisons is not well known and HCV Ab screening is not mandatory at the access in prisons. When HCV infection is diagnosed, prisoners are poorly linked to care because of several difficulties. Many authorizations of different authorities are required to start and complete a diagnostic and therapeutical pathway and the stay of the patient in the same prison is not ensured. We work in Caserta Province, a high HCV prevalence area and we expected the same evidence in the 1300 prisoners in four prisons of that area.

Description of model of care/intervention:

We contacted and involved all the authorities who rule the prisoners' life, planned a complete training of all personnel of prisons (clinicians, nurses, probation officers) about the state of the art of HCV infection, control and elimination possibility.

We applied to all prisoners, not tested for HCV Ab, a counselling and then an oral HCV testing (Oraquick®) and we obtained a whole HCV Ab+ prevalence of Caserta prisoners. Than a fast track of blood sample collection, evaluation and treatment assignment was performed by a unique Statement subscribed by Prisons and Health authorities of the Province.

Effectiveness, conclusion and next steps:

The HCV Ab+ prevalence detected in Caserta Province prisons was 9.6%.

From 2016 to 2018, 5 prisoners only were diagnosed for HCV infection and linked to care, in an evaluation length from 6 to 18 months. 2 of them not completed the treatment because of prison transfer. On 2019, in the six months after the statement subscription, 60 prisoners were diagnosed, evaluated and linked to HCV care in a maximum length of 30 days. All completed the treatment with 98.3% SVR 24.

A well definite pathway and the personnel training resulted the successful approach for prisoner linkage to HCV care.

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