**PURPOSE**

Individuals co-infected with HCV and HIV experience accelerated liver disease progression and higher mortality than HCV mono-infected individuals.

Current guidelines recommend that HIV/HCV co-infected individuals be prioritized for HCV treatment. However, many co-infected individuals have not yet been treated for HCV.

We examined factors associated with not initiating HCV treatment in 2016 among co-infected individuals in New York City (NYC).

**METHODS**

A deterministic cross-match of the NYC HIV and HCV surveillance registries was conducted to identify individuals who:

- were diagnosed with both viruses by the end of 2015
- were alive and living in NYC at the end of 2016
- had ≥1 positive HCV RNA test prior to 2016

**Definitions**

- Co-infection – an HIV diagnosis and a positive HCV RNA test reported by December 31, 2015
- HCV treatment initiation – first negative RNA result in 2016 preceded by a high positive RNA result (≥1,000 IU/mL)
- Durable HIV viral suppression – ≥2 HIV viral loads (VL) that were ≥3 months apart, and no VLs >200 copies/mL in 2016

Multivariable Poisson regression with robust error variance was used to identify factors associated with non-initiation of HCV treatment. Adjusted risk ratios (aRR) were reported.

**RESULTS**

- Of **5,568** co-infected individuals without a negative HCV RNA result reported prior to 2016:
  - 26% initiated HCV treatment and
  - 46% achieved durable HIV viral suppression in 2016
- Compared to those with durable HIV viral suppression, individuals without durable viral suppression were **66% less likely to initiate HCV treatment** in 2016 (aRR: 1.35; 95% CI: 1.30 – 1.39).
- Among co-infected individuals without durable HIV viral suppression who had not initiated HCV treatment in 2016, **53% had ≥1 suppressed HIV VL in 2016**.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- People who did not achieve durable HIV viral suppression in 2016 were less likely to have initiated HCV treatment.
- Lower HCV treatment initiation among those without durable HIV viral suppression could be a holdover from the previous New York State Medicaid HCV treatment requirement of controlled HIV viral load.
- Half of individuals without durable HIV viral suppression achieved at least one suppressed HIV VL, indicating that short-term treatment adherence was manageable for many of those who had not achieved durable viral viral suppression.
- As HCV treatment is of short duration, our findings suggest that individuals without durable HIV viral suppression could adhere to HCV treatment with appropriate support.

**LIMITATIONS**

- Our durable HIV viral suppression definition may be restrictive, as it does not include individuals who are monitored less frequently due to well-controlled HIV, though 83% of individuals without durable viral suppression had at least one unsuppressed HIV VL or no HIV labs in 2016.

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