

Rates of Testing for Hepatitis C Virus in HIV-Infected Injection Drug Users and Men Who Have Sex With Men Receiving Medical Care

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Background

- In New York City (NYC), 50% - 90% of injection drug users (IDUs) are infected with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
- HCV infection (HCV +) is associated with a high risk of chronic liver disease (60% - 70%) and cirrhosis (10% - 20%)
- Co-infection with HCV and HIV accelerates the progression of both diseases
- The CDC recommends that all IDUs be tested for HCV [MMWR, 1998, 47 (RR19): 1 – 39]

Objectives

- To describe rates of HCV testing and infection in HIV-infected IDUs and men who have sex with men (MSM) attending HIV clinics in NYC
- To examine factors associated with HCV testing and infection

Methods

- Setting**
 - Four HIV clinics in NYC
- Sample**
 - Patients recruited for the Adult Spectrum of Disease (ASD) Study, a longitudinal study of HIV-infected persons in care
 - 200 IDUs, 116 MSM
- Inclusion Criteria**
 - First clinic visit between 2/99 and 2/01
 - History of IDU or MSM
- Data Sources**
 - Medical record review
 - HCV laboratory results (if available)
- Primary Outcomes**
 - Proportion tested for HCV or history of HCV (+)
 - Proportion HCV (+) based on positive HCV antibody test, detectable HCV RNA, or physician note

Patient Characteristics

	IDUs n = 200	MSM n = 116
Age (median, yrs)	44	37.5
Male	72%	100%
Race		
White	12%	21%
Black	44%	42%
Hispanic	44%	31%
Other	2%	6%
Only 1 clinic visit	16%	16%
Clinic		
A	16%	13%
B	41%	54%
C	11%	14%
D	33%	19%

Results

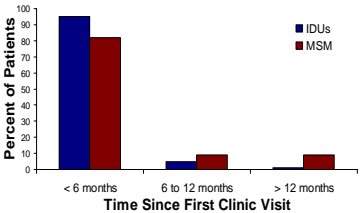
- Among HIV-infected IDUs receiving HIV care, 93% were tested for HCV and the prevalence of HCV infection was 78% among those tested
- Testing for HCV was similarly high (88%) among MSM attending the same HIV clinics, although the prevalence of HCV infection was lower (17%)
- Nearly half (43%) of IDUs *not* tested had only one clinic visit

Characteristics of Patients HCV Tested vs. Not Tested in HIV Clinics, by HIV Risk

	IDUs		MSM	
	Tested n=186	Not Tested n=14	Tested n=102	Not Tested n=14
Age (median, yrs)	44	40.5	37.5	37.5
Male	72%	71%	--	--
Race				
White	10%	29%	21%	21%
Black	44%	43%	43%	36%
Hispanic	45%	29%	30%	36%
Other	2%	0%	6%	7%
Only 1 visit	14%	43%*	14%	29%
Clinic				
A	16%	14%	13%	14%
B	42%	29%	52%	71%
C	10%	21%	14%	14%
D	32%	36%	22%	0%

*p = .01

Timing of HCV Test Among Patients Attending HIV Clinics, by HIV Risk



Proportion HCV Tested and HCV (+) Among Patients Attending HIV Clinics, by HIV Risk

	IDUs (n = 200)	MSM (n = 116)
HCV tested	93%	88%
HCV (+)	78%	17%

Characteristics of HCV (+) vs. HCV (-) Patients Attending HIV Clinics, by HIV Risk

	IDUs		MSM	
	HCV (+) n = 146	HCV (-) n = 40	HCV (+) n = 17	HCV (-) n = 85
Age (med, yrs)	44	40 *	41	37
Male	75%	60%	--	--
Race				
White	12%	5%†	12%	22%
Black	40%	55%†	53%	41%
Hispanic	48%	33%†	35%	29%
Other	0%	8%†	0%	7%
Clinic				
A	15%	18%	0%	15%‡
B	46%	28%	29%	56%‡
C	11%	8%	12%	14%‡
D	28%	48%	59%	14%‡

*p = .03

†p < .01

‡p < .001

Conclusions

- Health care providers at these four HIV clinics in NYC follow the CDC recommendation to test IDUs for HCV
- HIV-infected MSM are also being tested for HCV at very high rates
- The 17% (95% CI, 10% - 24%) HCV prevalence among MSM is at the high end of the range reported for MSM in the United States (2% - 18%)
- Further examination is needed to identify behaviors associated with increased risk in the MSM group, including unacknowledged IDU
- A follow-up survey is needed to determine if HCV positive patients are receiving treatment

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