

Hepatitis C Treatment on Opioid Agonist Therapy vs Needle Exchange Engagement

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Disclosures

- Andrew Seaman and all co-authors have received (minimal) grant support from Merck for this investigator initiated study.



Little prior data for Needle Exchange HCV Tx

- Growing data for HCV treatment with opioid agonist therapy (OAT)
- Sparse data for HCV treatment of patients recruited in harm reduction settings
- Harm reduction recruitment is key to HCV elimination
- We evaluate recruitment, treatment, and monitoring of patients in a Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) vs OAT



Methods

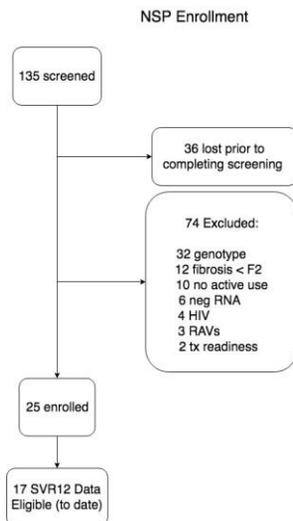
- Prospective, multi-site, non-randomized clinical trial
- Elbasvir/Grazoprevir tx in PWIDs with genotype 1a,1b, or 4 and APRI<0.7 or non-invasive metavir F2 or less
- Snowball recruitment method in anonymous NSP arm
- Target recruitment N=25 OAT, N=25 NSP
- Community standard comparison arms N=50 subspecialist tx, N=50 NSP/MAT primary care



Endpoints / Analysis

- Primary endpoint SVR12; secondary adherence
- Pearson Chi-Square / Intention To Treat Analysis

Results



Results

| | OAT | NSP | PWID Standard | Com. Standard |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| SVR 12 % / (N) | 89% (23) | 59% (10) (p<0.001) | 89% (32) | 94% (47) |
| Treatment Failures % / (N) | 0% | 6%* (1) | 0% | 0% |
| Adherence (% ≤ 7 pills missed) | 92% | 65% | 81% | 98% |



All can be treated, barriers should be removed

- 🕒 Enrollment and follow up challenging in the NEP group
- 🕒 Low virologic failures in all groups
- 🕒 Timeline and burden of venous lab draws a barrier
- 🕒 Elbasvir/Grazoprevir presents unique barriers in complex populations



Conclusions and Where From Here?

- PWIDs can be treated regardless of MAT engagement
- Simplified, low blood volume or point-of-care testing and same day treatment desirable next step for treatment of PWIDs in NSPs
- Explore incentivised snowball recruitment methods to expand on the power of drug user community knowledge

Acknowledgements

“I feel like, you know, my liver... I have a second chance. It's almost like getting a liver transplant. You know what I mean? [The] treatment has been right there with me making me want to get up and start the day. It let's me know I count.”

Outside In 
The point of return.™

