

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF HEHATITIS C AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS IN NAIROBI, KENYA

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Background

- PWID have a persistent epidemic of HCV with the most significant impact of HCV related morbidity and mortality worldwide.
- Instabilities which can affect treatment adherence related to drug addiction
 - Homelessness
 - Migration
 - Financial constrains
- This abstract describes one of the first successful pilot treatment of HCV with DAAs among PWID done in Nairobi Kenya.

Intervention

- MDM started screening for HCV among PWIDs since 2014 an activity which is not readily available within the country using Anti-HCV test.
- In 2016 through 2017 through a donor funded program the positive Anti-HCV tests were confirmed using PCR and the patients who had CHC were started on DAAs medication.
- HCV viral load was measured at baseline and at 12 weeks after treatment completion
- Modality of treatment was through DOT at the DIC/MAT clinic with facilitation of transport and meals.
- Follow up was done by clinicians, nurse counselors and peer educators

Effectiveness

- 117 patients had a positive Anti-HCV.
- 88 had CHC through PCR
- 76 were started on DAAs with 12 not started because of either contraindication to treatment or loss of follow up.
- By July 2018 all 76 patients completed the 12 weeks treatment and outcome was available for 73(96%) with SVR12, 1(1.3%) did not attain SVR12, 2(2.6%) died before the final viral load was done.

Conclusion

- HCV treatment combined with a model of care that enhances adherence can achieve high HCV treatment success rate among PWID
- Therefore there is need to include interventions that promote adherence of DAAs among PWIDs in a low resource setting.

Thank you