

Knowledge Around Direct Acting Antiviral Therapies and Willingness To Undergo HCV Treatment Among Rural Appalachian Opioid Users

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Disclosures

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Snapshot of HCV in SNAP Study

503 opioid users followed since 2008

- **42.9%** overall prevalence at baseline (2008-2010)
- **115** incident (new) cases
- **65.8%** overall prevalence in 2018 (331 of 503 participants have been exposed to the hepatitis C virus)
- **73.3% RNA-positive (treatment eligible)**



Methods – HCV Knowledge and Willingness Substudy

- Awareness of DAAs, including specifics about the treatment
 - True/false and multiple choice
 - Correct answers were provided after the question was answered
 - Survey/education
- Willingness to undergo treatment with DAAs
 - Under specific circumstances would be more likely to initiate treatment



Methods – HCV Knowledge and Willingness Substudy

- Eligibility criteria: positive anti-HCV test at one of the previous study visits
- 113 participants have completed survey to date
- Descriptive statistics presented



Awareness of DAAs

True or false: There are new hepatitis C treatments (direct acting antivirals – DAAs) that have very few side effects and high chance of curing the disease.

87.6% of participants were aware of DAAs



Awareness: Duration of Treatment

Multiple Choice: How long do these new treatments typically take to cure hepatitis C?

Less than a quarter (**23%**) answered 12 weeks. The most common response was 6 months (**45.1%**), followed by 1 year (**26.5%**)



Awareness: Cost

Multiple Choice: What is the cost for a single hepatitis C treatment course if you are to pay for it yourself (no insurance)?

Most (**89.4%**) were aware of the costs being in the tens of thousands (\$15k - \$90k) of dollars if paid out-of-pocket



Awareness: Cure

Multiple Choice: How high is the chance of cure with the new hepatitis C treatments?

The majority of participants (**68.1%**) indicated that cure rates were 90% or greater



Awareness: Immunity

True or false: I will be immune to the virus; i.e., I will be protected against getting the virus again after being cured.

69% of participants were under the impression that DAAs provided immunity to the virus



Willingness to Undergo Treatment

If these new treatments were offered to me today at little or no cost, I would take them

95.6% said yes

Two of the four indicating they would *not* take the drugs have already been treated



Conclusions

- Awareness of DAAs is high
 - Still some misconceptions that are concerning
 - DURATION OF TREATMENT
 - IMMUNITY
- Willingness to undergo treatment with DAAs is positive
 - More likely if treatments are locally accessible and offered at low to no cost



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