



Factors Associated With Hepatitis C In HIV Positive Men Who Have Sex With Men

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Background/aims

- An HCV epidemic among HIV-infected MSM has been observed globally.
- One unifying characteristic is the relatively low rates of primary incidence among HIV+ MSM but high rates of reinfection .
- This could pose a challenge for elimination efforts
- Practices that lead to the transmission of HCV infection in MSM are not completely clarified.
- The aims of our study were to evaluate the factors associated with HCV infection in HIV positive men who have sex with men (MSM) and describe the characteristics of this population.

Methods

- The U-SEX GESIDA 9416 study¹ was conducted in 22 hospitals in the Madrid area.
- The study was carried out from June 2016 to March 2017.
- In the HIV clinic of each participating hospital, ID physicians selected patients who met the **inclusion criteria**.
 - MSM aged ≥ 18 years
 - Documented HIV infection.
- ID physicians handed patients a card with a unique code and a link with access to an online survey. Cards were non-transferable.
- Patients completed a **cross-sectional survey on sexual behaviour and recreational drug use**
- The survey was anonymous and self-completed outside the hospital.

Results

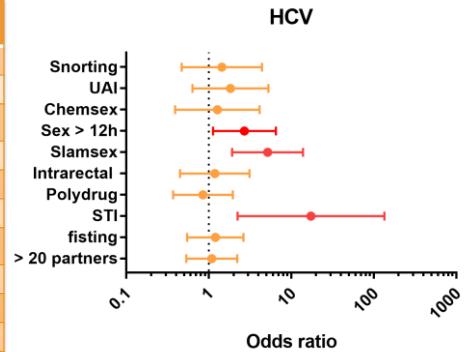
Characteristics of population

- 742 HIV+ MSM
 - Mean age 39 (SD 9)
 - Spanish-born (73%)
 - University (59%)
 - Year of HIV dx was 2011 (2006-2014)
 - 677 (96%) on ART
 - 60% had had UAI
 - 83% diagnosed with STI
- 216 (29%)SDU
 - 34 (4.5%/15,7%) slamsex
- 82 (11%) HCV

Univariate analysis

Factor	No HCV(n=659)	HCV (n=82)	P-value
Polydrug use	67 (10%)	31 (38%)	<0.001
Chemsex	162 (24%)	54(66%)	<0.001
Slamsex	13 (2%)	21(26%)	<0.001*
UAI	348 (53%)	67 (82%)	<0.001
Smoke drug use	45 (7%)	25(30%)	<0.001
Snorting drugs	204(31%)	57 (69%)	<0.001
Intrarectal use of drugs	24 (4%)	20(24%)	<0.001*
>20 partners in the last 6 m	95(16%)	31 (41%)	<0.001
Fisting	91(14%)	34(41%)	<0.001
Duration of sex >12 hours	22(7%)	19 (29%)	<0.001
STI	129 (78%)	52(96%)	0.004

Multivariate analysis



Conclusions/implications

- In HIV positive MSM, HCV infection was associated with the injection of recreational drugs (slamsex), longer duration of sexual sessions and the diagnosis of other STI.
- A better understanding of factors associated with HCV infection in HIV + MSM could help make elimination feasible in this group.

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