

# TREATING HEPATITIS C (HCV) IN ADDICTION CENTERS IN OUR COMMUNITY: ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS MICROELIMINATION

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## INTRODUCTION AND AIM:

To achieve the WHO objective of elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030 we must implement new strategies to reach difficult-to-treat patients.

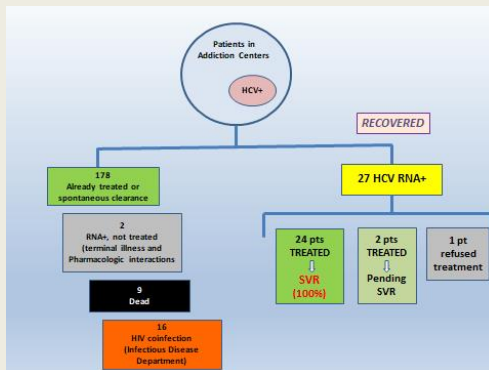
Basque Health Department-Osakidetza is implementing a project called "Action lines for the prevention and control of hepatitis C in the Basque Country".

One of the strategies adopted is to treat people who have used intravenous drugs in Addiction Centers (AC), which simplifies access to diagnosis and treatment.

## METHODS:

We actively looked for HCV-infected patients through database cross-checking. We identified the patients in AC of our community since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and we crossed this list with HCV serological studies carried out by Osakidetza. Thus, we have identified three groups of patients, candidates for study and potential treatment: a) HCV-RNA+, b) HCV Ab+, without HCV-RNA determination, and c) patients not tested for HCV.

## RESULTS:



## CONCLUSIONS:

- Between the time of preparation of this strategy and its performance, which was delayed due to the pandemic, many patients had already been referred to hospital and treated there. This gives us an idea of the awareness of psychiatrists about the importance of detecting and treating Hepatitis C in this group of patients.
- Adherence to treatment was very high and SVR was 100%.
- Treating patients in AC allows us to reach difficult to treat populations.
- The initiative was very well accepted by patients and psychiatrists.