



# Reviews

in Antiviral Therapy  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

12  
2018

JOURNAL OF ABSTRACTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES & ANTIVIRAL THERAPY

## **Abstract Book**

4<sup>th</sup> Central and Eastern European Meeting  
on Viral Hepatitis and HIV

*11 - 12 October 2018, Prague, Czech Republic*

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## Cascade of care for patients with chronic hepatitis C in the Dnipropetrovsk region (Ukraine)

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**Background:** Implementation of WHO strategy of the elimination of viral hepatitis until 2030 is the main goal for Ukraine as well as for most countries. According to estimates, the prevalence of HCV infection in Ukraine is about 5%. Dnipropetrovsk region has a population about 3,227,100 people. Therefore, in the Dnipropetrovsk region the number patients is about 161,355. Despite of the expansion of access to treatment, the coverage of patients with antiviral therapy remains insufficient. The study is aims to analyze the effectiveness of the implementation of the cascade service of patients with HCV.

**Materials & Methods:** The HCV prevalence and incidence rate in Dnipropetrovsk region during 2015 - 2017 was studied using the epidemiological and descriptive statistical methods. Based on these investigations the Register of patients with chronic hepatitis C in the region has been created. This Register included the electronic database of patients. Then the range of medical services, cascade care of patients in the region was assessed and analysed using Excel and Statistica V.6.1.

**Results:** 519,970 people were screened serologically for anti-HCV antibodies for the last three years. The rate of positive results was 4.98%. The prevalence of HCV in the general population ranged from 3.94% to 6.73% in different years. The incidence rate of acute viral hepatitis C in Dnipropetrovsk region gradually decreased from 2015 to 2017 and amounted to 2.05; 1.90 and 1.63 in comparison with rate of chronic hepatitis C - 12.72; 17.25 and 17.18 per 100 thousand population respectively. The level of the coverage of HCV diagnostic and the medical care of patients, the dynamic monitoring has been increased every year, and amounted to 30.02% in 2015, 37.34% in 2016, and 42.36% in 2017. In cascade of care for patients, the achievement of a sustained virological response (SVR)

was noted in from 96.69% of the entire cohort of patients. The rate of SVR in DAAs was the highest - 100% (interferon-free regimens - ledipasvir /sofosbuvir /ribavirin (LDV/SOF/RBV) and the 3D regimen (ritonavir boosted paritaprevir /ombitasvir /dasabuvir)). The failure of antiviral treatment was noted in patients with Peg-IFN/RBV regimens: non response - 1.23%, partial response - 1.97%, relapse - 2.7% patients.

**Conclusions:** The cascade of services and care for patients with HCV in Ukraine of patients is improving every year, but the coverage of patients with antiviral therapy remains insufficient. Systematic monitoring and expansion of HCV screening and diagnostics with subsequent creation of a national patient registry is an important tool for optimizing the cascade services to provide effective care of HCV-infected patients. Such approach can provide a more rational planning of State financial support to achieving the goal of elimination of HCV in Ukraine.