

Universal On-Site HCV RNA Screening is Warranted Among PWID Who Attend Harm Reduction Centres in Catalonia, Spain – HepCdetect II Study –

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Disclosures

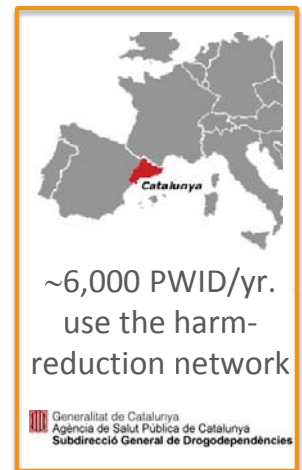
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Background/aims

- ⊙ **In Catalonia** most harm reduction centers (HRC) offer rapid HCV-Ab testing, but linkage to care for Dx confirmation and Tx is poor
- ⊙ **HepCdetect II Study:**
On-site HCV RNA screening of active PWID at HRC



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HRC with largest nº of users from diverse regions (1900/yr.)
In La Mina, one of the most important drug trafficking areas

- ⊙ **Aims:** To determine the burden of active infection among active PWID
To assess their awareness of HCV status
and linkage to care of treatment candidates

Methods

⊙ Study design:

Cross-sectional study on current injectors (N=275) in 2016-17 (1 yr.)
Subgroup followed up for 6 mo. after results delivery (n=32)

⊙ Assessments:

- HCV-Ab (RDT) and HCV-RNA (DBS) to all
- Bio-behavioral and socio-demographic survey administered by trained staff



- ⊙ **Endpoints:** HCV-RNA positivity, delivery of test results, self-knowledge of HCV status, linkage to care

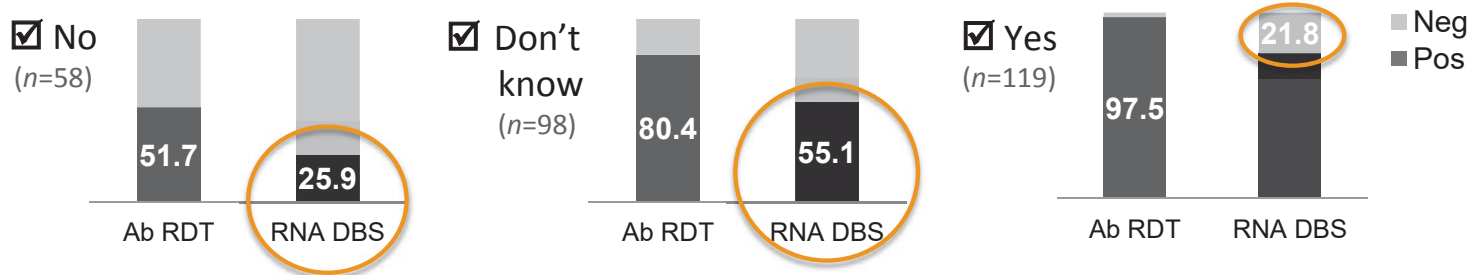
⊙ Statistical analysis:

- Assessment of factors associated with unawareness of viremic infection

Results

○ Prevalence of viremic HCV infection: 58.9%

○ “Do you have hepatitis C?” ⇒ 50.5% of participants were unaware of their HCV status



○ Factors associated with unawareness of viremic infection: none identified

○ Delivery of RNA DBS results: 75.3% of viremic participants ⇒ 83.6% newly referred to care

○ Linkage to care after receiving test results:
(n=32; 20% of viremic cases)



Conclusions/implications

○ As half of individuals are unaware of their status (no factors associated with unawareness), this **on-site HCV-RNA testing** strategy should be **scaled-up to all PWID** in the Catalan harm reduction network to:

- increase self-knowledge of HCV status
- identify treatment candidates



○ High prevalence of viremic infection and **limited linkage to care and treatment access**, even after receiving on-site HCV-RNA results

- **Pilot on-site antiviral treatment** program



Acknowledgements

See also Posters
#81 and #117

POLICY MAKERS

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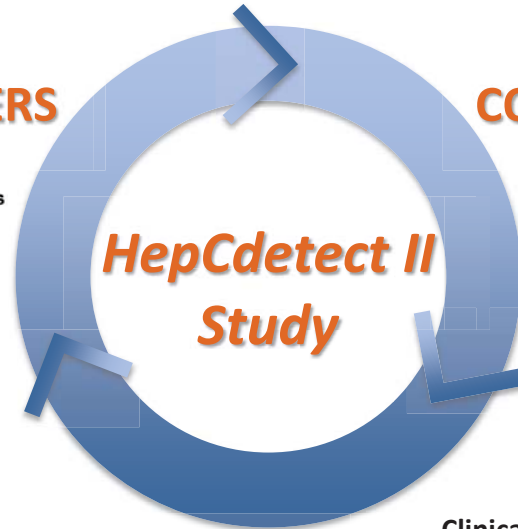
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**HepCdetect II
Study**

RESEARCH



Centre d'Estudis Epidemiològics
sobre les Infeccions de Transmissió
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COMMUNITY

The people who inject drugs who
kindly participated in this study

Harm-reduction center personnel

Centre de Dia
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Clinical Virology and New Diagnostic
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