

## **OUTCOMES OF TREATMENT FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION IN THE PRISON SETTING IN THE TRAPHEPC (TREATMENT AS PREVENTION FOR HEPATITIS C) PROGRAM IN ICELAND**

Fridriksdottir RH<sup>1</sup>, Fridjonsdottir H<sup>1</sup>, Alexiusdottir K<sup>1</sup>, Karlsdottir B<sup>2</sup>, Tomasdottir A<sup>2</sup>, Björnsdottir Th<sup>3</sup>, , Finnbogadottir AM<sup>3</sup>, Olafsdottir B<sup>3</sup>, Tyrfingsson Th<sup>3</sup>, Runarsdottir V<sup>3</sup>, Bergmann OM<sup>1</sup>, Björnsson ES<sup>1, 4</sup>, Johannsson B<sup>2</sup>, Sigurdardottir B<sup>2</sup>, Heimisdottir M<sup>4, 5</sup>, Olafsson S<sup>1, 4</sup>, Gottfredsson M<sup>2, 4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Landspítali University Hospital, <sup>2</sup>Department of Infectious Diseases, Landspítali University Hospital, <sup>3</sup>Vogur, Addiction Treatment Center, <sup>4</sup>Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Iceland, <sup>5</sup>Department of Finance , Landspítali University Hospital, Reykjavik, Iceland

### **Background:**

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is common among prisoners due to high rates of incarceration of people who inject drugs (PWID). In Iceland a nationwide treatment effort was launched in 01/2016, where all HCV patients are offered treatment, including an outreach nurse-led program within the penitentiary system. We evaluated the outcomes during the first 12 months.

### **Methods:**

TrapHepC nurses regularly visit the prisons, organize blood tests, conduct brief interviews and measure liver stiffness. Prior to treatment initiation the prisoners are interviewed once by a supervising physician. Starting in June 2016, all inmates at the main prison in Iceland were offered testing and subsequent treatment for HCV with SOF/LDV+/-RBV through October 2016 and SOF/VEL thereafter.

### **Results:**

At the initiation of the program, 59 (84%) out of a total of 68 inmates were tested for HCV. Of tested inmates, 17 (29%) were PCR positive, of which 16 accepted treatment. During subsequent screening of new inmates, 13 additional patients have been identified and initiated on treatment, for a total of 29. The mean age is 32 (range 21-51) with 28 (97%) males. All but two (27, or 93%) were PWID, 19 (70%) had injected within 6 months. Of the 29, 11 were released and continued treatment and/or follow up outside prison. 26 have completed treatment and are all PCR negative at end of treatment. Of the 18 patients who have reached post-treatment week 12 and for whom data are available, 16 (89%) have achieved SVR12. Relapse or reinfection has occurred in the other 2 subjects; virologic analyses are ongoing.

### **Conclusion:**

Treatment for HCV is well accepted and can be delivered safely and effectively in the prison setting. The penitentiary system provides an important opportunity to engage and treat high-risk individuals, and should be an integral part of any national HCV elimination program.

**Disclosure of interest:** Gilead Sciences provides DAAs for the TrapHepC program in support of an epidemiological study.