

Highly effective HCV-therapy and low rate of reinfection in persons who inject drugs and receive opioid agonist therapy

Raphael Schubert

Head of Nursing Department - Suchthilfe Wien

9/7/2017

INHSU 2017, New York

Disclosures:

- A part of this project was supported by Gilead Sciences
- Raphael Schubert received congress and travel fees from Gilead Sciences

Characteristics of „difficult-to-treat patients“ (= patients with „Borderline Compliance“)

1. History of or current intravenous drug use
2. Opioid agonist treatment (OAT) under stable conditions (on a daily basis in a low threshold facility or pharmacy)
3. By judgement of physicians:
Highly unlikely that the patient would regularly ingest his/her tablets for HCV-treatment if they were handed to him/her for self-administration at home.

→ „Directly observed therapy“: **OAT and DAA's** on a daily basis in pharmacy or low-threshold facility

3

„Directly observed therapy“

Low threshold facility - Suchthilfe Wien & about 40 pharmacies in Vienna



4

Compliance:

Adherence to therapy in the first 88 patients:

- A total of only 15 scheduled dates for ingestion of therapy were missed by 88 patients = 0.17 dates per patient

Virological Outcome:

Baseline characteristics and virological outcome in the first 88 patients:

- male/female: 66/22
- mean age: $39.04 \pm 8.9y$
- GT 1/2/3/4: 60/2/24/2
- liver cirrhosis: n = 26
- **SVR12: 88/88 (100%)**

Update: 29.08.2017

5

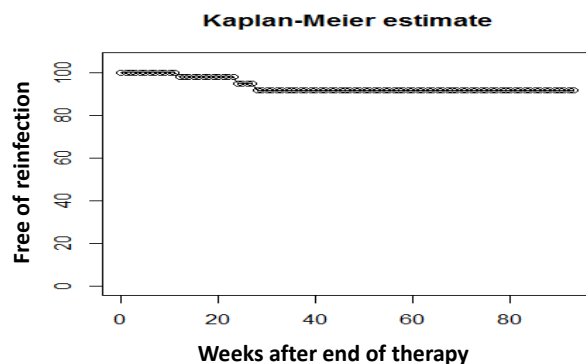
Reinfection-rate

Reinfections: **5/88 (5.7%)**

Kaplan-Meier probability of being free of reinfection:

(Weeks after end of treatment)

12 weeks	97.7%
24 weeks	95.0%
48 weeks	91.6%
72 weeks	91.6%



Conclusions

- The concept of “directly observed therapy” is highly effective in treatment of hepatitis C in PWID with “borderline compliance”.
- Reinfection-rate is low, despite of continued intravenous drug use in a majority of these patients.
- By successful treatment of these patients further transmission of the virus may be prevented.

7

Acknowledgments to the Viennese HCV-Treatment Network

Wilhelminenspital
4th Department of Medicine

Stephan Moser
Enisa Gutic
Michael Gschwantler



Suchthilfe Wien
Outpatient clinic

Angelika Schütz
Raphael Schubert
Cornelia Schwanke
Hans Haltmayer



Verein Dialog

Doris Kalchbrenner
Gerhard Rechberger



Viennese Chamber of pharmacists

Andrea Vlasek
Viktor Hafner



40 Pharmacies in Vienna and Lower Austria



8