Hepatitis C at KRC: Real Life Experiences Delivering Direct Acting Antivirals to Marginalised, Homeless, and Active Drug Users

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PI &CH forum 2016
Background

• Marginalised populations often excluded from studies of direct acting antivirals (DAAs)

• KRC treating clients with HCV using DAAs since late 2015
  o Patient access programs
  o Clinical trials
  o Direct access through PBS since 1-3- 2016
Aim & Methods

• To describe outcomes from the first cohort of current injecting drug users treated in the era of DAAs at Kirketon Road Centre

• Descriptive statistics for all clients who have commenced treatment by 31st August
  o Demographic variables (age, gender, education, employment)
  o Injecting patterns
  o Clinical history and outcomes
Demographic Characteristics

- 92 clients commenced treatment by 31st August
- Mean age 46 ± 10.3 years, range 25 – 69
- 25% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 30% homeless in last 12 months
- 71% male
- 86% unemployed
Injecting pattern

- Age first injecting: 21.6 ± 8.0 years; range 9 - 47
- 69 (75%) currently injecting
  - 59% injecting weekly, including 21% daily
  - 52% last injected heroin; 37% methamphetamine
  - 23% reported receptive syringe sharing in the preceding year, including 5% within the last month

- 33 (36%) currently taking opioid substitution treatment
- 28 (30%) had previous opioid substitution treatment
Injecting profile of Kirketon Road Centre clients

- Lifetime PWID (n=92)
  - Current PWID
    - PWID in OST (n=29) 32%
    - (n=40) 43%
  - (n=4) 4%
Clinical History

- Time since diagnosis: 15 ± 10.1 years
- 96% treatment naïve
- 7 (8%) HIV co-infected
- Genotypes
  - Type 1: 56 (62%)
  - Type 2: 1 (1%)
  - Type 3: 34 (37%)
- Fibroscan:
  - Median = 5.9
  - Range 3.2 – 50.6

Degree of Fibrosis

- None/mild: 70%
- Moderate: 11%
- Severe: 6%
- Cirrhotic: 13%
Treatment Prescribed

- **sofosbuvir + ledipasvir, 47, 51%**
- **sofosbuvir + daclatasvir, 35, 38%**
- **sofosbuvir + velpatasvir, 4, 4%**
- **paritaprevir + ritonavir + ombitasvir + dasabuvir ± ribavirin, 6, 7%**
Adherence Support

• 60 (65%) managed monthly treatment
  o Telephone support
• 32 (35%) utilised intensive support
  o Daily dosing at KRC
  o Pick up medication weekly dosette box
  o Arrange dispensing through another facility
  o Delivery of medications to prison, psychiatric units, police cells, homeless hostels
  o Monitoring in outreach settings
  o Picking up medications at pharmacy
**Healthy Liver Clinic**

**Hep C medical and support service**

*See the doctor and nurse*
- blood tests
- fibroscan of liver
- discuss treatments
- hep C issues

**Every Thursday Morning**

A KRC doctor, nurse and counsellor are available to discuss hep C treatment and liver health

Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) above the Darlinghurst Fire Station (entrance on Victoria Street)
Tel: 9 960 2766
Make an appointment or drop in!

*Refreshments in the group room*
Outreach

- 25% of clients seen on outreach
- 12% were first met on outreach

- NUAA needle and syringe program
- Medically supervised injecting centre
- Sydney Sexual Health Centre
- Mathew Talbot Hostel
- Haymarket Foundation
- Wayside Chapel
- Chapel by the Sea
- Edward Eagar Lodge
- William Booth House
Discussion

• Primary health care model desirable for this population
• Initial adherence and treatment outcomes favourable
• Rapport with local pharmacy
• Multi-disciplinary approach
• Liaison with other services (mental health/homeless)
• Flexibility, walk in, outreach
• Link to related services – counselling, etc
• Dosing options
• Working with peers
• Continue to evaluate and evolve
Questions?

• For further information, please contact:

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