VHPB BALKAN MEETING
LESSONS LEARNT, BEST PRACTICES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Lecturer: Abbvie, Bayer, Gilead, Merck, Sandoz
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No conflict of interest regarding this presentation
30 years
Introduction of testing for HCV
25 years
National strategy for the management of hepatitis C
SLOVENIA
2007-2022

15 years
National strategy
for the management of HCV infection
in PWID
SLOVENIA
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HCV INFECTION

Matičič M et al. ISIS 1999; 8: 49-51.
WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HCV INFECTION

A continuum of services for HCV management integrated into routine healthcare activities and financed by the national health insurance system.
SLOVENIA
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HCV INFECTION

5 centers for HCV treatment

Treatment for everybody since 1997
- All SOC treatment available and accessible
- National Health Insurance System
- NO restrictions for treatment
- PWID: Never declined from treatment

National register of all the treated patients (since 1997)

Matičič M et al. ISIS 1999; 8: 49-51.
WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HCV MANAGEMENT IN PWID

INTEGRATED: 18 Centers for treatment and prevention of drug addiction
5 Centers for treatment of viral hepatitis
SLOVENIA

HCV TREATMENT EFFICACY WITH IFN-BASED TREATMENT

SLOVENIA
MODEL PROJECTIONS FOR HCV ELIMINATION WITH DAA

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV TREATMENT EFFICACY WITH DAA

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
IMPACT OF DAA TREATMENT ON HCV TRANSMISSION IN PWID – A MODEL PROJECTION


WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
HEP-Y
Spletna aplikacija za prepoznavanje in informiranje o hepatitisih

Ali ste okuženi z virusom hepatitisa?
SLOVENIA
EXPANDED HCV TESTING

SLOVENIA
ACTIVE CASE FINDING OF HCV INFECTED

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
ACTIVE CASE FINDING OF HCV INFECTED

Test & Treat
Re-Link
Active screening

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
ACTIVE CASE FINDING OF HCV INFECTED

WITH regular medical supervision

Haemophiliacs
Haemodialysis
Organ transplant recipients
HIV/HCV co-infected

Active SEARCH
for all the individuals of a selected group (registers, database, medical records)

TEST all the individuals (if not tested/cured before)

IMMEDIATELY TREAT all HCV RNA-positive

WITHOUT regular medical supervision

PWID
Prisoners

A cascade-of-care interventions adapted to the specific needs of a particular group

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION COMPLETED

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PWID?

DAA treatment:
PWID: n=173
Non-PWID: n=210

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PWID?

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PWID?

PWID in NSP

Low threshold program

Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Illnesses

All PWID:
- Regular organized transport for all PWID in need of HCV screening or treatment

If HCV RNA positive:
- Assistance in arranging abdominal ultrasound examination and addiction specialist’s opinion
- Help with obtaining DAA from pharmacy
- Providing motivation and help during treatment with DAA

Follow up:
- Encouragement of treated PWID to take part in follow up care

Regular organized free transportation with NGO employee

If HCV status unknown:
- anti-HCV screening
- Counseling about safe injection practices

If anti-HCV positive:
- HCV RNA screening
- Liver Stiffness measurement
- Referral to abdominal ultrasound
- Addiction specialist’s opinion, if on OST
- Pan-genotypic treatment

Follow up:
- HCV RNA at the end of the treatment
- SVR assessment (FU12)
- Reinfection monitoring every 6 months
- Referral to abdominal ultrasound depending on stage of liver fibrosis.

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TESTING


WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TESTING


WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.

Change of the location (NON-COVID LOCATION) for free anonymous testing and outpatient management
SLOVENIA
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TREATMENT

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TREATMENT

Updated national guidelines for Viral hepatitis management during the COVID-19 pandemic
National Viral Hepatitis Expert Board. KIBVS, 6 April 2020.

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PRISONERS?

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
SLOVENIA
HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN MARGINALISED POPULATIONS

MOBILE OUTREACH UNITS
Testing

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.
**SLOVENIA**

**HCV BURDEN - 2014**

A Cascade-of-Care (1997-2014): est. HCV RNA prevalence 0.3%

Est. prevalence in 2014: 0.3%

Est. prevalence in 2017: 0.2%

SLOVENIA
CURRENT IMPACT: DAA - THE GAME CHANGER

A Cascade-of-Care (2017-2020): est. HCV RNA prevalence < 0.1%

SLOVENIA
CONCLUSIONS – LESSONS LEARNED

- HIT EARLY & HIT HARD
- IT´S NEVER TOO LATE TO START
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