Hepatitis C incidence and prevention activities targeting young people in Norrbotten County, Sweden

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Hepatit C - new cases infected through IVD

1998-2011 Norrbotten County Sweden
Rates of confirmed hepatitis C cases per 100 000 in Nordic countries 2009
Age group 15-24 years

Results of HCV-testing

Age group 15-24 years
Norrbotten County Council Sweden 2005-2010

Total number of HCV-tests: 4670
Total number of cases: 87
Fingerprinting HCV in 2009-2010

New cases age 15-25 years in Norrbotten County Sweden
Swedish Communicable Diseases Act 2004:168

- Personal guidelines to prevent spread of the disease
- Support
- Treatment - drug dependence treatment, hepatitits C treatment
- Contact tracing – leave information regarding how he/she got infected and who else may have been exposed
Care of patients diagnosed with hepatitis C
Survey 2008 Norrbotten County Council

• Evaluate if patients with hepatitis C get all the help they should to be able to reduce the risk of spreading hepatitis C and other blood-borne diseases

• Questionnaire to physicians who reported new cases of HCV during 2005-2006 in Norrbotten County Council (111 new cases – 92 answers)

Contact tracing was performed in only 20 % of the cases (mostly partners and children)

Contact tracing was performed by the physicians
Contact tracing – new strategies!

• The physician refers the patient to the counselor at the clinic
• It is important that the counselor has good knowledge about blood-borne diseases and prevention!
• At the same time - health promotion and psychosocial support!
Hepatitis C contact tracing 2009

Red: HCV pos      Blue: HCV neg      Green: unknown

17 years
18 years
18 years
19 years
20 years
21 years
24 years
23 years
19 years
18 years
20 years
What kind of health services tested young people for hepatitis C in Norrbotten County 2005-2010?
Established network!
A three-year project

• Education about blood-borne diseases and prevention to personnel who meet people at risk and people with drug problems

• Motivational interviewing

• Better information for young people and people with cognitive problems
A three-year project

- Guidelines: who, what and when?
- Establish collaboration between (for example):
  - Infectious disease clinic - Mental Health Services - Drug Dependence Treatment Centers - Social services
  - Infectious disease clinic - Health Care in Prisons