

RUSSIA: HEPATITIS C TREATMENT GAP AND WAYS FORWARD

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5th
International
symposium on
Hep C Care in
Substance
Users, Oslo,
Sept 7-9, 2016

HCV – AN EPIDEMIC OF NEGLIGENCE

- Estimated 6 mln people living with Hep C in Russia (Rospotrebnadzor) = 4% of all population
- Around 2 mln urgently need treatment
- PWID especially vulnerable – sentinel surveillance shows prevalence of 45-90% (mid-range 69%)
- Treatment is currently not accessible for the vast majority of patients
- There is dedicated federal or regional budgets for HCV, its funded on the 'leftover principle'
- People who use drugs are excluded from treatment

STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

ARF 2013 STUDY

- No dedicated budget for treatment or prevention
- No support for harm reduction prms for PWUD
- No patient registry → impossible to estimate # of patients and their needs
- No HCV treatment protocols or standards
- Centralized treatment provision mostly through specialized AIDS Centers
- Low capacities of treatment facilities
- High price of the medication

STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS - 2

- PWID are the most affected group, but fully excluded from prevention and treatment
- Harm reduction programs are restrained by the government = no hep C prevention and counseling
- OST programs are illegal = no access to treatment adherence for opiate dependent patients
- Low patients awareness >> low treatment demand
- PWID are denied treatment on the basis of their drug use / instability

HARM REDUCTION UNDERGROUND

Harm reduction work declining due to gov't opposition

- **In 2009** - 75 projects reaching out to 135.000 clients (coverage of **less than 5%** of conservatively estimated 2.5 mln PWID)
- In 2016 – 16 projects reaching 13.800 people (**90% decrease!**) coverage = 0,5% of PWID
- To be closed in 2017
- Only needles and condoms are funded, no other injection equipment

→epidemiological significance of these programs for Hep C is negligible



LOW DEMAND DUE TO LACK OF AWARENESS

ARF study: 'I think that people don't know anything about their condition. I think many people, if not everyone, are unaware of what's going on. They don't know that treatment is available.'

patient in Togliatti, 29 yo

'– Have you heard about hepatitis C treatment?

– No, I haven't. I heard it's almost incurable. You can treat it, but it's difficult, and there are few drugs available. I don't really know about it, and I have never tried to find out, to tell the truth'

patient in Togliatti, 39 yo

TREATMENT RATIONING

- Due to high cost of medication doctors have to ration access to treatment
- Priority groups – doctors, nurses, people with HIV, ‘socially reliable’ patients
- Access very limited even for these groups
- ARF study identified that even among PWHIV+HepC less than 10% received treatment
- PWID are excluded completely

ACCESS TO MEDICINES

- Experts say that in order to reduce incidence by 40% by 2020, at least **123.000** people should be treated annually
- ITPC analysis of state/regional purchases in 2015 indicates that only **5.000-10.000** patients may have received therapy
- 90% of them were on pegs+ ribavirin
- DAAs schemes available since 2015, sofosbuvir registered in spring 2016
- Eg Moscow purchased 400 courses of Viekira pak in 2015
- Cost of pegs remains high! The cheapest course now ~4000\$ (Algeron + ribavirin)
- Cost of DAA schemes in 2015 purchased by State/regions – around \$15K. In 2016:
 - Sofosbuvir/daclatasvir : ~ 15.500 USD
 - Sofosbuvir/simeprevir : ~ 20.000 USD

PRICE REDUCTION ACTION


- ITPC suggests target price of 50.000 rub (770 usd)
- ITPC + Humanitarian action challenge Gilead's patent in court (jan 2016 hearing by Patent Chamber)
- The head of local producer Pharmasintez had a meeting with Putin and offered to introduce compulsory licensing of DAAs followed by a serious discussion
 - (but eg Russian peg generic PegAltevir does not differ in price from brand pegs currently sold at 149USD per ampule in State auctions)

DIY TREATMENT

- Patient community groups (buyers clubs) – 3 (or more?) groups in Russia
 - Self-purchase generic DAAs from India, China, Egypt
 - Looking for ways to reduce prices, eg purchase powder API (dac) from China and capsule themselves
 - Self-test in labs for equivalence
 - On-line counseling by doctors
- ⇒ current price at 30.000 rub (470\$) and going down + diagnostics (in some regions covered by insurance)

Gepatitka group started in 2015, 4000 members
1500-2000 received medicines through the group, only 4 people reported no VS




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а не привилегия!**

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**Hepatitis C – treatment
is a right,
not a privilege!**