

Practices regarding the hepatitis C virus among injection drug users: new Steribox® and new strategies in prevention campaigns.



SUMMARY

(Excerpted from "*Médecine et Maladies Infectieuses*", 1999; 29: 348-9, © Elsevier, Paris)

HCV incidence is high among the Injection Drug Users (IDUs) in spite of syringes availability in pharmacies and Needle Exchange Programs. Apart from syringes sharing, suspected ways of HCV transmission are: sharing the spoon in which drug is diluted, and injecting the drug remaining in used cottons/ filters.

HCV transmission may occur when HCV positive drug user prepares the equipment and injects a friend with bloodstained fingers. A cross-sectional study was conducted near customers buying a Steribox® (drug injection safe kit). The prevalence of at-risk behaviour during the last month was:

9% of drug users injected used cottons/ filters, 52% shared a spoon (among those who shared a spoon, 24% of co injectors used a non sterile syringe). During the same period, 21% have been « injected » at least once by another drug user and 32% helped another to inject.

Among the practices, sharing a spoon with a « co injector » and using recovered cottons/ filters seem to be the major at-risk behaviour. These suspected ways of transmission confirm the relevance of including a sterile spoon with a leaflet in new drug injection safe kit.

© 1999 Elsevier, Paris

Mai 1999, Vol. 29 N°5



documentation
www.apothicom.org
infos@apothicom.org

E. Imbert & coll., published in Médecine et Maladies Infectieuses. May 1999.

Association pour la prévention, la pharmacovigilance et la communication

Association loi 1901 – 52 Avenue Edison 75013 – Paris – France

N° Siret : 391 735 180 00021 – Code Ape 8899B – TVA Intracommunautaire : FR 15391735180

Tél. : +33. (0)1.53.61.18.41 - Fax : +33. (0)1.53.61.04.49 - E-mail : infos@apothicom.org - www.apothicom.org