

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Hepatitis C infection in Dutch HIV-positive patients in the era of direct-acting antiviral therapy

1. Among Dutch HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM), the unrestricted access to direct-acting antiviral therapy for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV) was followed by a decline in prevalence and incidence of HCV. Direct-acting antivirals are a powerful tool to tackle the HCV epidemic (dit proefschrift).
2. Treatment of acute HCV with 8 weeks of grazoprevir and elbasvir is feasible, well-tolerated and effective. Treatment of acute HCV should be implemented to exploit the 'treatment-as-prevention'-effect among MSM (dit proefschrift).
3. At least a subgroup of HIV-negative MSM is at increased risk for HCV. In this at-risk population an acute HCV surveillance system should be implemented and will help to inform future screening and elimination efforts (dit proefschrift).
4. The majority of patients infected with HCV genotype 4 can be treated with 8 rather than 12 weeks of sofosbuvir/ledipasvir (dit proefschrift).
5. For HIV-positive MSM in the Netherlands, the ambitious WHO's HCV elimination targets of a 90% decrease in HCV incidence are unlikely to be reached with universal HCV therapy alone (dit proefschrift).
6. The recommendations in the HCV guideline of the European Association of the Study of the Liver on the timing and choice of therapy for patients diagnosed with an acute HCV infection are outdated (EASL, J Hepatol. 2018).
7. Due to the long natural history of HCV, clinical trials cannot assess the effects of sustained virological response on morbidity, mortality and viral transmission. Therefore, other research methods should be applied (Jakobsen et al., Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017).
8. There is no room for stigma in the doctor's office (Marinho et al., World J Gastroenterol. 2013).
9. In complex systems there are multiple interactions that can subtly influence outcome (BMJ 2019;365:l2103).
10. It is easy to forget that sometimes the smallest acts of kindness and compassion can make the biggest difference (BMJ 2018;363:k5153).
11. Accept changes (Microsoft® Office Word).

