European Conference on
Hepatitis C and Drug Use
Berlin 23-24 October 2014

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Federal Drug Commissioner of the Government
Ministry of Health, Berlin
3% of the world population (180 Mio) are infected with HCV
Hepatitis C: a global health problem

The disease burden of viral hepatitis is high. In 2010, a total of 1.4 million people worldwide died from the consequences of viral hepatitis (often liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma).

Within Europe (WHO EURO region) about 14 million people are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus and approximately 9 million with the hepatitis C virus, the WHO estimates.

Germany has an estimated prevalence of 0.6% (500,000 cases) for hepatitis B and 0.4% for hepatitis C (about 350,000 cases) in the general population; it is part of low prevalence regions; but: in injecting drug users the prevalence is much higher.
In Germany several hundred thousand people have a chronic HCV infection. It’s treated only in one of ten!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>unknown</th>
<th>diagnosed</th>
<th>treated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 %</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>&lt;10 %</td>
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mod. nach Niederau C et al, (2006) Epidemiologie der chronischen Hepatitis C in Deutschland,
RKI (2012) Epidemiologisches Bulletin Nr. 4
Hepatitis – challenge for drug service system

www.drogenbeauftragte.de
...déjà vu

expert meeting
September 2003
„wish list“ of 2003

- regular testing of OST patients
- better use of OST for treatment
- support for stable living conditions
- vaccination campaign in low threshold services
- standards and guidelines / manuals
- network of expertise for hepatitis
- expert meeting/pilots for best-practice
- sensibilisation of associations
- use of competence of AIDS services
Wunschzettel von 2003

- targeted research projects
- „safer snief“ campaigns
- video for hepatitis prevention
- Hep C treatment within prisons
- from injecting to smoking (controversial!)
- including youth services
- co-operation with public health services
Measures of Ministry of Health 2008

- The Federal Ministry of Health since 2004 has supported the interdisciplinary “alliance for action on hepatitis and drug use" or International conferences in Berlin (2004), Vienna (2005), Bonn (2006) and Hamburg (2007)
- supported “handbook hepatitis C and drug use - treatment, prevention, care and justice", which has been published in its second edition and can be downloaded from the website of the "Coalition for hepatitis and drug use" (http://www.hepatitiscfachtag.org/)
- in addition, the Federal Ministry of Health promoted jointly with the State of Berlin, a pilot project for "early intervention as a measure of the hepatitis C prevention" in Berlin, for innovative methods of hepatitis prevention among drug users (“Fixpunkt”)
Pilotprojekt
Oktober 2008 – September 2011

Frühintervention als Maßnahme der Hepatitis C Prävention bei Drogengebrauchern

Fixpunkt
Universität Hamburg
Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Suchtforschung – ZIS
Important measure to reduce hepatitis infections: expansion of substitution treatment
current situation in Germany

**Abbildung 1:**
Anzahl gemeldeter Substitutionspatienten in Deutschland von 2002 bis 2013 (jeweils Stichtag 01. Juli)

**Abbildung 2:**
Anzahl meldernder, substituierender Ärzte von 2002 bis 2013

Quelle: Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte
OST in Europe
730,000 patients
Current situation in Europe

- percentage of OST of total treatment options for IDU
PREMOS study: despite of high prevalence of OST, high prevalence of hepatitis C
action plan Hepatitis 2013

- better information for drug users relating to hepatitis virus infection
- sterile or hygienic drug use paraphernalia, puncture-proof disposal container and disinfectant
- bring more drug addicts in therapy
- specially trained HCV nurses for therapy monitoring
WHO Resolution 23 May 2014

The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,

URGES Member States:

(14) to implement comprehensive hepatitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment programmes for people who inject drugs, including the nine core interventions, as appropriate, in line with the WHO, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNAIDS technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, and in line with the global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS, 2011–2015, and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/277, taking into account the domestic context, legislation and jurisdictional responsibilities;
There are drug treatment options for hepatitis B infection and, more recently, improved treatment options for hepatitis C infection.

2014 new drugs for treatment of hepatitis C had been approved in Germany (Sofosbuvir and Simeprevir, which can bring significant improvements in the treatment and a successful treatment for a larger patient group is realistic.
"Germany has a very diverse system of drug services in relation to measures to reduce harm: it ranges from drug consumption rooms and contact centres for syringe exchange to substitution treatment. In view of the high prevalence of hepatitis C among opiate addicts, effective measures for its prevention in this area are imperative."

Nationale Strategie zur Drogen- und Suchtpolitik

Addition Policy, February 2012
Thank you for your attention!