

Screening and treatment of HIV and drug related diseases among drug users: a scientific update

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Presentation

The spread of HIV among drug users remains a highly topical theme not only in our country but also at European and international level. In particular, the incidence of new HIV infections in addicted patients, but also of other drug-related infections that appeared to be in decline until a few years ago, are experiencing a resurgence with serious negative consequences for the health of drug addicts population, drug users population and for general population, often sexually in contact with them. It is therefore necessary to understand and monitor this trend as much as possible in order to identify the causes and especially the possible strategies to prevent and reduce it.

In addition, for several years it was noted a significant decreased in doing of HIV and hepatitis B and C testing, by the services for drug addiction. That could result in a substantial delay in early diagnosis of such diseases, reducing the access to antiretroviral therapies and increasing the probability of unaware transmission of the infection. Therefore, there is a need, indicated by several parties, to revive the offer of testing for these important infections in the addicted population, thus pursuing a strategy of "early detection" which, besides providing timely care for those in need, also ensures a better containment of the spread of unconscious infections.

For these reasons, it has been organized this workshop addressed to those people working in the addiction field, which aims to provide an update in relation to the technical and scientific characteristics of the problem and the best practices to be used to tackle it from the clinical point of view. That could give patients operating modes targeted to serological investigations, adequate support from health professionals (counseling), steady supply of appropriate treatments for the state addiction and the prevention of related diseases.

In collaborazione con

Si ringrazia