

**Maternal characteristic and risk factors for Hepatitis C (HCV) infection among  
HIV positive pregnant women in Ukraine, 2010-2011**

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**Research interests:** Risk factors of HIV/Hepatitis C transmission

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**Objective:** The study measures prevalence of Hepatitis C (HCV) infection and defines risk factors for HCV infection among HIV positive pregnant women in Ukraine, 2010-2011.

**Methods:** The survey was conducted in 2011 among HIV positive pregnant women. Totally 879 women participated. For 618 HCV test result was available. Women's risk factors as well as risk factors related to women's partners were. Poisson regression with robust variance estimation was utilized to identify risk factors associated with HCV seropositivity.

**Results:** The overall HCV seroprevalence was 20.23% (95% CI=17-23%). 10% of women reported injection drug use (IDU). 33% of women's permanent partners were HIV-positive and for 54% of them HIV status was indicated as unknown. In multivariate analysis partner's injection drug using among non-IDU women [PR: 2.1 (95% CI: 1.3-3.1)] was associated with HCV. High HIV prevalence in region of women's residence was significantly associated with HCV status [PR: 1.9 (95% CI: 1.3-2.9)].

**Conclusions:** The HCV infection among HIV positive women in Ukraine is linked to the IDU practice both women and her partners. IDU women as well as IDU partners of non-IDU women are the main risk factors for Hepatitis C positivity. Strong association between high HIV prevalence in the region of women's residence and HIV/HCV co-infection support the injection drug using as the most important route of HCV transmission.

**Key words:** HIV, Hepatitis C, HIV/HCV co-infection, pregnant women, injection drug using, Ukraine.