Doctor’s approach to providing narcological help to HIV-infected patients and their readiness to HAART provision

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Liverpool 2010
Narcological situation in Russia

- Over 550,000 people drug users registered.
- From those about 400,000 (over 70%) - IDU - 274.1 on 100,000 population
- 0.3% of the population were using drugs intravenously (2007)
- In 6 regions of the RF this indicator was over 0.5% of the population
- Among IDUs - 49,976 people diagnosed with HIV – 12 - 14 %
HIV-infection epidemic in Russia
(31.09.2009)

- 516,167 people are registered with HIV-infection
- Up to 87% of people diagnosed with HIV are IDUs
- Over 40% of population live in regions
  - With high – 150–300 and
  - very high – 300–620
  - HIV-infection prevalence
  - 100,000 population
- 7,638 people died from AIDS
### Overview of the narcological help in Russia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of narcological dispensaries</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of treatment institution, with out-patient treatment departments</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of large narcological patient care institutions</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of narcological beds</td>
<td>27 881</td>
<td>27 400</td>
<td>26 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— for 10 000 of population</td>
<td>1,96</td>
<td>1,93</td>
<td>1,87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of psychiatrists-narcologists</td>
<td>5 875</td>
<td>5 788</td>
<td>5 764</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Predominant drugs among patients in narcological hospital

- Main drug – OPIOIDS - 99.3%
- Including heroin - 76.8%
- Injecting drug use - 98.9%
## Change of attitude of narcologists towards HR programmes
*(based on surveys in 1993 – 1995)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude of doctors to harm reduction programmes</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need to introduce NSEP and train IDUs of safe drug injection</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible to use methadone substitution therapy when treating HIV-infected patients</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey results of psychiatrists- narcologists about providing narcological treatment to HIV-infected patients (2007)

Doctors’ attitude towards pre-and post-test counselling:

- Counselling with all patients - 65.1%
- Did not think counselling was their professional responsibility - 19.3%
Doctors’ attitude to HAART
(2007 survey)

32.5% of HIV-infected patients received HAART

Over 50% of narcologists saw HAART as:
- A possibility to increase the quality of life
- A factor of prolonging life
- A factor of prevention of HIV-infection epidemic
Main obstacles to HAART provision to IDUs in the opinion of narcologists (survey 2007)

- IDUs way of life - 31.9%
- Possible interaction of drug substances with HAART - 10.1%
- HAART side-effects - 2.2%
Attitude of doctors to substitution therapy for IDUs when treating HIV with HAART (survey 2007)

- Thought it useful - 11,6%
- Considered it as a “possible option” when the abstinent treatment model was ineffective - 37,3%
- Viewed it unacceptable since the drug was given to the drug user - 25,7%
- Realized their role in supporting HAART adherence - 78,3%
Attitudes of narcologists to HR programmes (survey 2007)

Positive effect of HR programmes:

- Increases the access for IDUs to medical services - 22%
- Bring close the narcological help to the closed IDUs groups - 19%
- Increases the possibility to re-socialization - 9%
- Become a source of reliable statistical information – 17%
Attitudes of narcologists to HR programmes (survey 2007)

Negative effect of HR programmes:
- Free «syringe distribution» - 8%
- A way to legalize drugs - 6%
- Propaganda of «drug use way of life» - 5%
Preliminary evaluation about HIV education among the narcologists (survey 2007)

Most of the narcologists during their practice face issues related to HIV-infection (80%)

Respondents were interested in covering the following topics:

- Testing and counselling – 50%
- Post-contact prevention – 10%
- Judicial aspects of HIV-infection – 10%
- ARVT in IDUs - 10%
Thank you for your attention!

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