Author's response to reviews

Title: Determinants of hospitalization for cutaneous injection-related infections among injection drug users: a cohort study

Authors:

Elisa Lloyd-Smith (esmith@cfenet.ubc.ca)
Evan Wood (uhri@cfenet.ubc.ca)
Ruth Zhang (rzhang@cfenet.ubc.ca)
Mark W Tyndall (mtyndall@cfenet.ubc.ca)
Sam Sheps (sam.sheps@ubc.ca)
Julio SG Montaner (jmontaner@cfenet.ubc.ca)
Thomas Kerr (uhri@cfenet.ubc.ca)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Hans Zauner,

In follow-up to our previous conversation, we appreciate the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled "Determinants of hospitalization for cutaneous injection-related infections among injection drug users: a cohort study" for possible publication in BMC Public Health. In our re-submitted version, we have included a discussion of our recently published manuscript on risk factors for cutaneous injection-related infection and believe that as a result our manuscript has been greatly improved.

We have incorporated reference to the recently published manuscript in the following places: the background, methods and discussion.

Background: sentences five and six, third paragraph

“However, recent research highlights that CIRI are a medical issue of concern among users of the SIF. Over a two year period, 6-10 per cent of IDU had a CIRI at time of interview [17].”

Methods: first sentence, fourth paragraph

“Variable selection was based on previously published literature on CIRI or related infectious complications and hospitalization among IDU [1, 2, 5, 6, 17].”

Discussion: second paragraph

“Using the same cohort, the risk factors for the outcome of developing a CIRI have been reported to include being female, living in unstable housing, borrowing syringes, requiring help injecting and injecting cocaine daily [17]. The present study evaluated the predictors of the outcome of hospitalization for CIRI and related infectious complications. The predictors of hospitalization for CIRI or
related infectious complications included being HIV positive and referred to hospital by a nurse at the SIF. Interestingly, being HIV positive was not a risk factor for the development of CIRI but was a predictor of hospitalization for CIRI or related infectious complications.”

We hope that you will find this discussion acceptable. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further questions or comments.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas

Thomas Kerr, PhD
Director, Urban Health Research Initiative
British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicine
University of British Columbia
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar

St. Paul’s Hospital
608-1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6Z 1Y6
(Tel) 604-806-9116
(Fax) 604-806-9044
Email: drtk@cfenet.ubc.ca