APPLICATION OF A NOVEL METHOD TO ESTIMATE INCIDENCE OF HEPATITIS C AMONG INJECTING DRUG USERS IN SCOTLAND

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Background Prevalence of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) among injecting drug users (IDUs) in Scotland is high. Through an HCV Action Plan, the Scottish Government has invested significantly in harm reduction interventions with the goal of reducing HCV transmission among IDUs. In evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, estimates of the incidence, rather than the prevalence, of HCV are essential. The traditional approach to measuring incidence—follow-up of a cohort of uninfected individuals to measure seroconversion—can, however, be costly and suffer high participant attrition rates. We report the first large-scale, national application of a novel method designed to determine incidence of HCV using a cross-sectional design.

Methods During 2008–2009, IDUs were recruited from needle exchange services, completed an interviewer-administered questionnaire and provided a dried blood spot for anonymous HCV-antibody (anti-HCV) and HCV-RNA testing. Incident infections were defined as individuals who were anti-HCV negative and HCV-RNA positive.

Results Prevalence of anti-HCV was 55% among the 2563 participants. Among anti-HCV negative respondents, twenty-one were HCV-RNA positive, yielding an incidence estimate of 12.1 per 100 person-years (corresponding to a viraemic pre-seroconversion window period of 51 days). Individuals currently receiving methadone had lower odds of incident infection (adjusted OR 0.15; 95% CI 0.035 to 0.68) relative to those on methadone in the previous 6 months (but not currently).

Conclusions This approach to measuring incidence will allow us to gauge the impact of preventive interventions associated with the HCV Action Plan.

P1-45 NOVEL APPLICATION OF LOT QUALITY ASSURANCE SAMPLING: AS A QUALITY CONTROL TOOL IN CENSUS VERIFICATION

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Introduction Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) was developed as technique for quality assurance in industrial production. The use of LQAS in health sciences is limited to coverage evaluations of different health activities such as immunisation coverage, antenatal care coverage, elimination of neonatal tetanus and coverage iodised salt and others. LQAS has been accepted as rapid epidemiological survey method. The present study was carried out to explore the feasibility of using LQAS in Census Verification.

Methods Comprehensive Rural Health Services Project (CRHSP) located in northern India, caters to a population of 70,000 spread in 28 villages. All the individuals in the project area have been assigned a 10 digit unique identification number. Every year a health census is carried out to update the computerised health management information system by multi-purpose health workers. Quality control measure of such activity amounts cross verification of records of 25% population by the medical officer. The whole process takes 2 months time. LQAS was applied as a quality control measure for census operation. Village was considered as a Lot. 25% individual IDs were selected randomly from each village for quality check of demographic and health records. Allowable error was fixed at 5%. If the error exceeded the limit of 5% the Lot was considered to be rejected and the whole census process was repeated.

Results Four villages were rejected upon using LQAS. The total duration of census operation was similar to previous method.

Conclusion LQAS can be used a scientific and robust method of quality control of census verification.

P1-46 DIAGNOSTIC RADIATION EXPOSURE AND BREAST CANCER RISK IN BRCA1/2 MUTATION CARRIERS IN THE GENE-RAD-RISK STUDY

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Introduction BRCA1/2 mutation carriers might be more sensitive to ionising radiation due to impaired DNA repair mechanisms.

Methods A retrospective European collaborative cohort study (GENE-RAD-RISK) of 1993 female BRCA1/2 mutation carriers was performed using self-reported exposure to diagnostic radiation. Risk of breast cancer was estimated using a weighted Cox proportional hazards model with cumulative radiation exposure from diagnostic procedures as a time-dependent variable lagged by 5 years.

Results are not presented in the abstract due to a publication embargo.