

HCV Treatment Outcome Among Patients Attending Opioid Substitution Therapy Clinics

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Background

Georgia is the country with high prevalence of HCV (estimated 7% of the adult population has antibodies to HCV). One of the main routes of infection transmission is injection drug use. Different studies show up to 92% seroprevalence among Georgian PWIDs. In 2015 Georgian Government started HCV elimination program with support of international partners. The aim of the study was to evaluate treatment outcome among patients receiving opioid substitution therapy (OST).

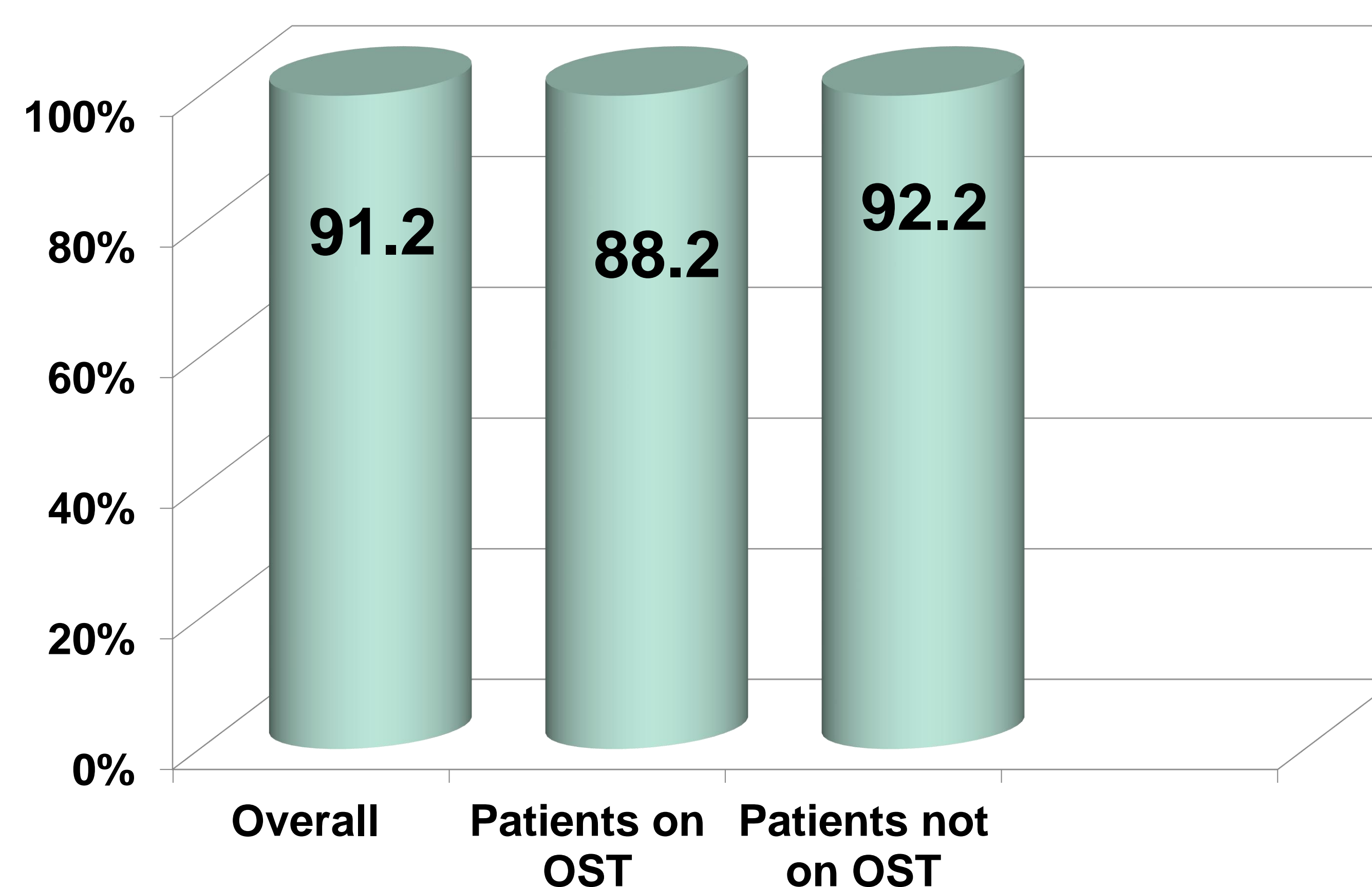
Methods

Patients with history of injection drug use and treated within HCV elimination program with direct acting antiviral agents with or without pegylated interferon were included in the study. Consecutive patients reporting ever using injection drugs treated in outpatient clinic NeoLab, which represents one of the main HCV treatment sites in Georgia responsible for HCV diagnostics and treatment, have been studied. The analysis was conducted for the patients who completed the treatment course and have their sustained viral response (SVR) data available at 12-24 weeks after the treatment.

Results

Overall, 465 patients with above described criteria were enrolled in the study. Out of these, majority were males (99.1%) with age range of 22-79 years (mean age was 45.3 years). 102 Patients reported being on OST. Overall SVR rate was 91.2%. By bivariate analysis there was no significant difference between SVR rates among patients being on OST and never receiving OST services (88.2% and 92%, respectively, $P=0.16$).

SVR rate among PWIDs treated within HCV elimination program



Conclusions

The study has shown that treatment outcome is similar among patients attending OST clinics with other patients with history of drug use.