

RESEARCH SUMMARY

THE SYNDEMIC EFFECT OF HIV/HCV CO-INFECTION AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS ON ACUTE CARE HOSPITALIZATION RATE AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: A POPULATION-BASED RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY



**St. Paul’s Hospital**

**608 - 1081 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC**

**FINDINGS**

* Among the 4046 individuals in the final sample, 1597 (39%) were PLWH without mental health disorders, 606 (15%) were people living with HIV and HCV (PLWH/HCV) without mental health disorders, 988 (24%) were PLWH with mental health disorders, and 855 (21%) were PLWH/HCV with mental health disorders.

Compared with PLWH without mental health disorders:

* PLWH with mental health disorders had an increased rate of acute care hospitalization by 31%.
* PLWH/HCV without mental health disorders had an increased rate of acute care hospitalization by 101%.
* PLWH/HCV with MHD had an increased rate of acute care hospitalization by 153%.

**INTRODUCTION**

This study examined the interaction between HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) co-infection and mental health disorders on the acute/short-term hospitalization rate among people living with HIV (PLWH) in British Columbia, Canada.

**METHODS**

We included individuals at least 18 years of age, who had never initiated antiretroviral therapy (ART) (combination of HIV drugs), initiated ART between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2014. These individuals were followed for at least 6 months until 31 December 2015 or last contact. We determined the acute care hospitalization rate (every 6-month interval) per individual.

**PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

HIV/HCV co-infection and mental health disorders interaction demonstrated a significant effect on the rate of acute care hospitalization, particularly for PLWH/HCV with mental health disorders.

**Authors:** Martin St-Jean, Hiwot Tafessu, Kalysha Closson, Thomas L. Patterson, M. Ruth Lavergne, Julius Elefante, Lianping Ti, Mark W. Hull, Robert S. Hogg, Rolando Barrios, Jean A. Shoveller, Julio S.G. Montaner, Viviane D. Lima

