Treatment Options for Hepatitis C in Pregnant Women: A Systematic Review of the Evidence and Future Research Needs

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Introduction

• An estimated 21% of the global population infected with HCV are women of reproductive age.¹
• At least 19 countries have policies or guidelines recommending universal HCV screening in pregnancy.²
• Treatment for HCV during pregnancy has the potential to:
  • Increase HCV treatment coverage in persons of reproductive age
  • Prevent mother-to-child transmission in current and future pregnancies
  • Improve HCV-related outcomes for mother and infant
• HCV treatment is not currently recommended in pregnancy due to a lack of safety data.

Aim

• To assess the published literature on treatment options for HCV infection in pregnancy, including both linkage to care and treatment during pregnancy.

Method

• Systematic literature review in PubMed for articles published in English from January 1, 2013–July 1, 2021
• Search terms: “Hepatitis C virus” AND “pregnancy” AND “treatment” OR “direct-acting antivirals”
• All articles were reviewed and thematically coded by dual reviewers

Conclusions

• There is extremely limited evidence regarding safety or efficacy of HCV treatment options in pregnancy.
• More data is urgently required to determine the optimal treatment options for HCV in pregnancy.
• TiP-HepC is the first pregnancy exposure registry for HCV treatment and aims to fill this critical data gap and inform treatment decision-making by patients, providers, and programs.

Results

• 118 relevant primary studies identified
  • Only 1 prospective study on outcomes of treatment in pregnancy (9 patients)³
  • Only 1 retrospective study on outcomes of treatment in pregnancy⁴
  • Only 3 studies exploring preferences for treatment in pregnancy
  • Only 8 studies on outcomes, strategies, or models for maternal linkage to care
  • 101 relevant publications without primary research findings
  • 13 commentaries with specific consideration for the potential value of HCV treatment during pregnancy

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Contact information

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References


The TiP-HepC Registry is the first pregnancy exposure registry for direct-acting antivirals.

Submit your cases to the registry at: https://www.globalhep.org/evidence-base/treatment-pregnancy-hepatitis-c-tip-hepc-registry