Screening for hepatitis C in intravenous drug users and genito-urinary clinic attendees
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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
The authors consider whether screening and interferon alpha (IFNa) treatment for hepatitis C (HCV) should be offered to intravenous drug users (IVDUs) and genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic attendees.

Authors' conclusions
The authors conclude that the case for screening is not proven: evidence of the benefits, harms and costs of a screening programme in either population is inadequate. Although the evidence presented shows that a prevalence round of screening in intravenous drug users could be cost-effective, there is too much uncertainty surrounding this to reach a definite conclusion. In particular, the evidence relies on assumptions regarding the natural history of hepatitis C and likely adherence to diagnosis and treatment that may not be valid.

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