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START HERE

**DETECTION OF HBsAg AND HCV ANTIBODIES AT I.V DRUG USERS**

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**Background:** Prevailing of HCV antibodies at intravenous drug addicts according to certain examinations in USA and Europe is 70 - 92%. Around 40% of intravenous drug users in the period of 4 years become HCV antibodies positive, and in the period of 10 years almost 100%. According to Kelen GD and collaborators prevailing of HBsAg at intravenous drug addicts is 6%. Aim of the work: Prevailing of HCV antibodies and HBsAg at drug addicts in the district of Stip to be determined.

**Methods:** In the past few years in the W.U Transfusiology in Medical Center in Stip 48 intravenous drug addicts are serologically tested for detection of anti HCV and HbsAg. All the 48 examined have used the drugs for more than 5 years. 43 (89.5%) of them are men and 5 (10.4%) are women. They are all young people and born after 1977. For detection of HBsAg in the serum samples of the intravenous drug users microelisa test Hepanostika HbsAg Uni - FORM II of the firm Organon teknika, United Biomedical, Inc. New York - USA is used. For detection of HCV antibodies in the serum samples UBI HCV EIA 4.0 of the firm Organon teknika United Biomedical, Inc. New York - USA is used. As confirmed test for HBsAg Hepanostika Uni - Form Confirmation (Organon teknika) is used; and for anti HCV Lia Tek HCV III; Organon teknika, United Biomedical, Inc. New York - USA is used.

**Results:** From 48 drug users serologically tested for presence of anti HCV and HbsAg it is determined: the presence of anti HCV at 44 (91.66%); the presence of HCV and HbsAg at the same time at 3(6.25%); and presence of only HBsAg at 1 (2.08%).

**Conclusion:** The results of our examinations show that the prevailing of anti HCV antibodies in comparison with the prevailing of HBsAg at intravenous drug users in the district of Stip is high and dominant.

I certify that this material has not been published or presented previously.

Signature

Date **4.10.2001**

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