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**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ABSTRACTS: November 1, 2001**

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**HEPATITIS B AND C AT DRUG ADDICTS OF I.V. DRUGS**

**Kamceva M., Kamcev N., Gajdardziska-Siskova D., Karagozova G. Vitlarova J.**

Working Unit (WU) Infections diseases, Medical Center-Stip, R. Macedonia

**Background:** Hepatitis B and C virus infections in Republic of Macedonia are serious medical and social problem. Aim of the work: Incidence of Hepatitis B and C at users of intravenous drugs in the district of Stip to be really determined.

**Methods:** 48 registered users of intravenous drugs were examined in the period from 1997 to 2000. 9 of them (18.75%) are patients with emphasized clinical picture of hepatitis and were hospitalized. In making the diagnosis besides the clinical picture and standard examinations, serological detection of HBsAg and anti HCV with ELISA methods were used.

**Results:** 48 registered drug users are tested and presence of HCV antibodies is detected at 44 of them (91.6%), at the same time presence of anti HCV and HBsAg at 3 of them (6.25%), and presence of HBsAg at only 1 (2.08%). Nine patients (18.75%) are with emphasized clinical picture of hepatitis and because of that they are hospitalized. The only presence of anti HCV is detected at 6 patients (66.66%) at 2 of them (22.22%) the presence of anti HCV and HBsAg at the same time is found, and the only presence of HBsAg at 1 (11.11%). There is improvement of the clinical picture and laboratory results after the hospitalization of 30 days. But the prolonged increased amounts of transaminazis and the persistent presence of HCV antibodies and HBsAg are showing the chronic virus C and B hepatitis at these drug users.

**Conclusion:** The virus hepatitis B and C is a very frequent disease of the drug users from the district of Stip. All the 48 serologically tested drug users are bearers of the markers of Hepatitis C and B. Manifested clinical picture is registered at 9 (18.75%) drug users. Hepatitis C is dominate among the drug users.

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date **4.10.2001**

Last Name **Milka** First Name **Kamceva**

Department **Working Unit (WU) Infections diseases**

Institution **Medical Center-Stip, R. Macedonia**

Address at Work \_\_\_\_\_

City **Stip** Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Country **R. Macedonia**

Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
(country code/city code/number) (country code/city code/number)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_