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## HCV INFECTION AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN WITH OR WITHOUT HIV IN SHANGHAI, CHINA

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**Background:** Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection among human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infected men who have sex with men (MSM) has emerged as a public health challenge worldwide. In China, there have been few studies focusing on HCV infection between HIV-positive and HIV-negative MSM.

**Methods:** A total of 249 MSM visited HIV voluntary counseling and testing clinic (VCT) in Shanghai, China was examined to determine their prevalence of HIV and HCV. Socio-demographics and sexual behaviors were investigated to determine potential association with HCV infection in HIV-positive and HIV-negative groups.

**Results:** The overall prevalence of HIV and HCV was 19.3% and 4.4%, respectively. Furthermore, HCV prevalence was 12.5% in the HIV-positive group whereas 2.5% in the HIV-negative group. There was no significant difference between HCV-positive and HCV-negative participants in socio-demographics or sexual behaviors. In the HIV-positive group, HCV infection was identified associated with marriage, less receptive anal sex with the male casual partner, and more female regular partners; whereas in HIV-negative group, it was only associated with the local residents. Eight HCV NS5B 377-nt partial sequences were amplified and determined as subtype 1b, 2a, 3a and 3b in HIV-positive group and subtype 1a, 1b and 3b in HIV-negative group.

**Conclusions** HCV infection is highly correlated with HIV infection among Chinese MSM. Though HIV-negative MSM are at lower risk of HCV acquisition compared to HIV-positive MSM, they still have higher risk compared to general population. An expanded screening for HCV among MSM who visit VCT may be necessary.

### Biography

Zhao Xichang worked in the CDC for many years, mainly engaging in AIDS prevention and treatment. As an experienced doctor, he is well versed in AIDS crowd propaganda education, high-risk people intervention, AIDS discovery and follow-up. Furthermore, he has established the self-management model of AIDS patients to improve the quality of their life and reduce the risk of HIV transmission.

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