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**Manuscript Type:** ORIGINAL ARTICLE

*Retrospective Study*

**Emergency department targeted screening for hepatitis C does not improve linkage to care**

Houri I *et al.* Emergency department screening for hepatitis C

Inbal Hour, Noya Horowitz, Helena Katchman, Yael Weksler, Ofer Miller, Liat Deutsch, Oren Shibolet

**3**  
**Abstract**

**BACKGROUND**

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a leading cause of chronic liver disease worldwide. New treatments for HCV revolutionized management and prompted the

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We implemented a nontargeted, opt-out **HCV testing** and **linkage** to care (LTC) program in an academic **tertiary care emergency department** (ED). Despite research showing the critical role of **ED-based HCV testing programs**, predictors of LTC have not been defined for patients identified through the nontargeted **ED testing** strategy.

**Author:** Joshua A. Blackwell, Joel B. Rodger... **Publish Year:** 2019

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However, many patients identified through **nontargeted HCV screening** in the **ED do not** have a primary care provider, are otherwise disconnected from the healthcare system, and do not successfully **link** to care after **HCV diagnosis**. In order to **optimize linkage** outcomes, interventions designed to address predictors of LTC failure are urgently needed.

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### Predictors of linkage to care for a nontargeted emergency ...

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Nov 29, 2019 · OBJECTIVE: We implemented a nontargeted, opt-out **HCV testing** and **linkage** to care (LTC) program in an academic **tertiary care emergency department** (ED). Despite research showing the critical role of **ED-based HCV testing programs**, predictors of LTC have not been defined for patients identified through the nontargeted **ED testing** strategy.

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<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337639726...>

Background Emergency departments (EDs) are high-yield sites for hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening, but data regarding linkage to care (LTC) determinants are limited.

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EDs play a crucial role in Hepatitis C screening and linkage to care. • Predictors of linkage to care failure may be used to enhance linkage efforts. • Predictors of linkage failure were identified for 1674 patients with Hepatitis C. • Young age, white race, homelessness, substance use, & mental illness increased risk. •

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Author: Joshua A. Blackwell, Joel B. Rodgers, R... Publish Year: 2020

### Hepatitis C Virus Screening and Emergency Department ...

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0164831>

Oct 19, 2016 · Recent studies demonstrate high rates of previously undiagnosed hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection among patients screened in urban emergency departments (ED). Experts caution, however, that public health interventions, such as screening for infectious diseases, must not interfere with the primary mission of EDs to provide timely acute care.

Cited by: 7 Author: Douglas A. E. White, Erik S. Anderson, Erik ...

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### Characterizing Failure to Establish Hepatitis C Care of ...

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5198583>

Emergency departments (EDs) are high-yield sites for hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening, but data regarding linkage to care (LTC) determinants are limited. Methods. Between September 2013 and June 2014, 4371 baby boomers unaware of their HCV status presented to the University of Alabama at Birmingham ED and underwent opt-out screening.

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