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Signal Detection on a Patient Cohort: A Disproportionality Analysis of the ANRS CO22 HEPATHER Cohort to Identify Associations between Direct Acting Antivirals and Adverse Events in Patients with Hepatitis C Virus Chronic Infection

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Signal detection on a patient cohort: a disproportionality analysis of the ANRS CO22 HEPATHER cohort to identify associations between direct acting antivirals and adverse events in patients with Hepatitis C virus chronic infection

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| Abstract: | <p>Purpose. Our aim was to explore a signal detection method for early identification of potential adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in a patient cohort.</p> <p>Methods. ANRS CO22 HEPATHER is a French multicentre prospective observational cohort started in 2012. The cohort includes patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection with reports of all adverse events (AEs) occurring in patients exposed to HCV drugs. We applied a disproportionality method, which calculated a measure of association, the Bayesian Information Component (IC), for each drug-AE pair. ICs were continuously updated and a positive drug-AE association was detected when the lower limit of an IC 95% Credible Interval (95%CI) exceeded 0. We illustrate how the method could result in timely detection of photosensitivity reaction with simeprevir use.</p> |

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| | <p>Results. By August 28, 2016, 6,600 patients with HCV infection had been treated or were undergoing current HCV treatment, and 3,464 experienced at least one AE for a total of 12,720 reported AEs. We detected 52 positive drug-AE associations, including 44 that were known ADRs based on the summary of product characteristics. The association between simeprevir and photosensitivity reaction was detected on June 4, 2014. At this date, 68 patients had received simeprevir and 6 photosensitivity reaction (4 during simeprevir treatment) had been reported, for an estimated IC of 1.90 95%CI [0.20; 3.61].</p> <p>Conclusions. The disproportionality method can help with early detection of potential ADRs in patient cohorts. Detected associations need to be confirmed by a review of clinical data.</p> |
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Signal detection on a patient cohort: a disproportionality analysis of the ANRS CO22 HEPATHER cohort to identify associations between direct acting antivirals and adverse events in patients with Hepatitis C virus chronic infection

Detection of adverse event in a patient cohort

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KEY WORDS — Adverse Drug Event; Cohort Studies; Hepatitis C; Pharmacovigilance

KEY POINTS

- Safety information from cohort studies can be used to detect adverse drug reactions.
- We applied a quantitative signal detection method for identifying potential adverse drug reactions in a cohort of patients with chronic hepatitis C exposed to new antiviral drugs.
- The disproportionality method relied on the calculation of a Bayesian Information Component, and resulted in timely detection of both known and unknown associations between drugs and adverse events.
- As with any signal detection method, a clinical review of the signal is required to confirm or eliminate the relevance of the detected association.

WORD COUNT — 3202 words

An abstract of this study was presented in March 2017 at the 21st International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Observational Databases.

ABSTRACT

Purpose. Our aim was to explore a signal detection method for early identification of potential adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in a patient cohort.

Methods. ANRS CO22 HEPATHER is a French multicentre prospective observational cohort started in 2012. The cohort includes patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection with reports of all adverse events (AEs) occurring in patients exposed to HCV drugs. We applied a disproportionality method, which calculated a measure of association, the Bayesian Information Component (IC), for each drug-AE pair. ICs were continuously updated and a positive drug-AE association was detected when the lower limit of an IC 95% Credible Interval (95%CI) exceeded 0. We illustrate how the method could result in timely detection of photosensitivity reaction with simeprevir use.

Results. By August 28, 2016, 6,600 patients with HCV infection had been treated or were undergoing current HCV treatment, and 3,464 experienced at least one AE for a total of 12,720 reported AEs. We detected 52 positive drug-AE associations, including 44 that were known ADRs based on the summary of product characteristics. The association between simeprevir and photosensitivity reaction was detected on June 4, 2014. At this date, 68 patients had received simeprevir and 6 photosensitivity reaction (4 during simeprevir treatment) had been reported, for an estimated IC of 1.90 95%CI [0.20; 3.61].

Conclusions. The disproportionality method can help with early detection of potential ADRs in patient cohorts. Detected associations need to be confirmed by a review of clinical data.

INTRODUCTION

Detection of potential adverse drug reactions (ADRs)¹ is a major concern. Although the gold standard for identifying and quantifying frequent ADRs is clinical trials,² the sample sizes of trials are usually too small to detect ADRs when the frequencies of adverse events (AEs) following treatment are rare. To address this issue, spontaneous pharmacovigilance reporting systems have been set up to record incidental serious or unexpected AEs, and numerous analytical methods have been developed to link these events with current or past medication intake.³⁻⁶ Analyses of healthcare databases with thousands of patients exposed to a drug, eventually compared to thousands of unexposed patients, also allow the identification of associations between a drug and an AE, i.e., “a signal”. Among various signal detection methods, disproportionality (DP) methods³ are commonly applied to spontaneous reporting systems⁷⁻⁹ or healthcare databases.^{10,11} However, in some of these systems, and particularly in healthcare databases, the timeliness of data collection is a strong limitation when one wants rapid identification of a signal for a drug recently released on the market. In observational patient cohort studies, a large amount of pharmacovigilance data is also collected. Our main objective was to explore a signal detection method for early identification of potential ADRs in a patient cohort. We illustrate the potentials of the method for detecting associations between antiviral drugs and AEs in patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection included in the prospective ANRS CO22 HEPATHER cohort study.

METHODS

Patients

The ANRS CO22 HEPATHER cohort ("Therapeutic options for hepatitis B and C: a French cohort") is a national multicentre prospective observational cohort study of patients with viral hepatitis B or C (this study is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, number NCT01953458).¹² The cohort was set up in August 2012 with the main objectives to quantify the clinical efficacy and safety of new hepatitis treatments in real life. Written informed consent was obtained from each patient before enrolment. The protocol was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and French law for biomedical research and was approved by the "CPP Ile de France 3" Ethics Committee (Paris, France) and the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM). HCV-positive patients were defined as patients with positive HCV-RNA or positive anti-HCV antibodies. Main exclusion criteria were HIV coinfection and being on HCV-treatment at inclusion. Enrolment of patients started on August 6, 2012 in two centres and was progressively extended to 32 centres by September 2014 to reach 14,599 patients with past or active HCV infection by August 28, 2016. During the inclusion visit, detailed demographics, clinical (including history of past treatments) and biological data were collected using a dedicated electronic case-report form. Follow-up visits occurred once a year for every patient and the planned duration of follow-up is at least eight years. In some but not all patients, HCV treatment with antivirals was initiated during regular patient visits. The choice of the antiviral combination was left to the physician's discretion but followed the national guidelines.¹³ When an antiviral treatment was initiated, a specific schedule was implemented with additional visits 6 months after the last antiviral intake. Date of beginning and end of treatment, any dose modification, as well as all AEs regardless of their intensity occurring from first treatment intake until one month after the end of treatment were to be reported. AEs were described in terms of date of onset and resolution,¹⁴ intensity (using the ANRS grading scale),¹⁴ and causality assessment; all events were coded centrally by a trained research assistant using the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA, v17.0).

Signal detection

Signal detection in the Hepather database was performed using a disproportionality analysis method already applied to observational healthcare databases.^{10,15-17} This method calculates a measure of association, the Bayesian Information Component (IC), for each drug-AE pair reported in the database. The IC is the logarithm of the ratio of the observed count of drug i reported with AE j to its expected value under the hypothesis of no association (i.e. independence) between the drug and the AE. Weighting is added to both observed and expected counts to increase stability at very low numbers of AEs.¹⁸ Using this method and under the hypothesis that the IC is normally distributed, the IC and its variance $V(IC)$ are calculated by¹⁶:

$$IC = \log_2 \frac{(c_{ij} + \gamma_{11})(C + \alpha)(C + \beta)}{(c_i + \alpha_1)(c_j + \beta_1)(C + \gamma)}$$

$$V(IC) = \left(\frac{1}{\log(2)} \right)^2 \left[\frac{C - c_{ij} + \gamma - \gamma_{11}}{(c_{ij} + \gamma_{11})(1 + C + \gamma)} + \frac{C - c_i + \alpha - \alpha_1}{(c_i + \alpha_1)(1 + C + \alpha)} + \frac{C - c_j + \beta - \beta_1}{(c_j + \beta_1)(1 + C + \beta)} \right] \quad \text{with weights } \alpha_1 = 1,$$

$$\alpha = 2, \beta_1 = 1, \beta = 2, \gamma_{11} = 1$$

$$\text{and } \gamma = \gamma_{11} \frac{(C + \alpha)(C + \beta)}{(c_i + \alpha_1)(c_j + \beta_1)}$$

C is the total number of events, c_{ij} is the number of times a specific drug-AE pair is reported, c_i the number of reports of a specific drug in the database and c_j the number of reports of a specific AE in the database. The weights α_1 , α , β_1 , β and γ_{11} are coefficients in the prior beta distributions for the probability of a drug, an AE, or a drug-AE pair to be listed in the database. Their values were chosen under the *a priori* hypothesis of no association between the drug and the AE.

The IC and $V(IC)$ are updated each time a new unit of a drug-AE pair is reported in the database. Based on the posterior normal probability distribution for IC, 95% credible intervals (95%CI) are calculated as plus or minus two standard deviations from the estimated IC value. A signal is identified when the lower bound of the 95%CI exceeds 0 (positive association) or when the upper bound of the 95%CI is less than 0 (negative association).¹⁶ Positive drug-AE associations are considered to be potential ADRs and candidates for further clinical review or investigation. In a sensitivity analysis, we

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3 explored the impact of other choices for prior coefficients α_1 , α , β_1 , β , γ_{11} on the total number of
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5 positive drug-AE associations.
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10 Application to the HEPATHER cohort

11 The selection of drug-AE pairs for our analysis required defining the at-risk period of a drug,¹⁰ which
12 was chosen as the time between first to last treatment intake + 30 days. We considered a patient as
13 experiencing a potential ADR when an AE was reported during this at-risk period. In addition, two
14 issues had to be addressed to select drug-AE pairs to include in the analysis: (1) Several drugs might
15 be combined while the signal detection is applied to each drug individually (2) A patient might
16 experience recurrent AEs but the drug-AE pair should not be counted more than once in a patient.
17 Therefore we proceeded as follows (for illustration we assume a combination of two drugs A and B):
18 (1) we generated a drug-AE pair for each drug in the combination (e.g. for a combination of two
19 drugs A and B: A-AE, B-AE); (2) for each drug-AE pair we checked if it was already reported in this
20 patient, and if not, we kept the pair for analysis. Finally, for each drug-AE pair, we built a two
21 dimensional contingency table (table 1).¹⁰
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34 AEs were analyzed at two different hierarchical levels of coding in the MedDRA terminology, the
35 Preferred Term (PT), a level describing a single medical concept, and the System Organ Classes (SOC),
36 a level grouping AEs by etiology, manifestation site, or purpose. Only pairs with a minimum of 1 AE
37 reported were selected (minimum required value of c_{ij} for the IC calculation with PT and with SOC).¹⁹
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43 To calculate the positive predictive value (PPV) of our method at both the PT and SOC levels, we built
44 a reference set with all described ADRs reported in the summary of product characteristics (SPC) for
45 each drug considered in our study. We used the SPC available at the date of the 26th of November
46 2017 on the website of the European Medicines Agency²⁰ (see appendix 1). Our reference set
47 included 893 known different ADRs at the PT level and 170 at the SOC level. We calculated the PPVs
48 (and 95% binomial confidence intervals) at the SOC and PT levels as the number of positive drug-AE
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3 associations reported as ADRs in the reference set, divided by the total number of detected positive
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5 drug-AE associations.

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7 To illustrate the method, we chose known ADRs with hepatitis C drugs that are often given together
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9 in combination: simeprevir and sofosbuvir with photosensitivity reaction (PT), an association first
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11 reported in 2010,^{21,22} and dasabuvir, ombitasvir, paritaprevir and ritonavir with hyperbilirubineamia
12
13 (PT), an association first reported in 2012.^{23,24} We also investigated in detail two positive drug-AE
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15 associations which were not reported as known ADRs: ledipasvir with chest pain (PT) and asunaprevir
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17 with cardiac disorders (SOC).
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21 All statistical computing and analysis were performed with the R statistical computing open source
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23 software (version 3.3.1).²⁵
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RESULTS

General findings

By August 28, 2016, 6600 patients with chronic HCV infection at entry in the cohort had been treated or were undergoing current HCV treatment, and 3464 patients had experienced at least one AE. In total 13,306 drug-AE pairs were reported, of which 12,720 were reported at least once in different patients (table 2).

When the analysis was performed at the PT level, 3550 different drug-AE pairs were reported 1 to 9 times, 423 were reported 10 to 99 times, and 60 were reported more than 100 times (table 3). At the SOC level, 149 different drug-AE pairs were reported 1 to 9 times, 121 pairs 10 to 99 times and 65 more than 100 times. We detected 95 potential drug-PT signals, among which 52 were positive associations, including 44 ADRs reported in the reference set (PPV = 85%, 95% confidence interval [72%; 93%]) (table 4 – see also appendix 2). We detected 49 potential drug-SOC signals among which 26 were positive associations, including 21 ADRs reported in the reference set (PPV = 81%, 95% confidence interval [61%; 93%]). These results were only slightly affected by different choices for the prior coefficients α_1 , α , β_1 and β . However the number of positive associations were sensitive to the prior coefficient γ_{11} , related to the prior probability of a specific drug-AE association (see appendix 3).

Illustration with known ADRs caused by HCV drugs

A positive association between simeprevir and photosensitivity reaction (PT), could have been detected on June 4, 2014. At this date 68 patients had received simeprevir, 157 AEs had been reported during the simeprevir at risk period, and a total of 6 photosensitivity reactions (4 during the simeprevir at risk period) were reported, for an estimated IC of 1.9, 95%CI [0.20; 3.61] (figure 1A – see also appendix 2). In contrast, no signal was detected between sofosbuvir and photosensitivity reaction: by August 28, 2016, 6,139 patients had been receiving sofosbuvir and the estimated IC was 0.16, 95%CI [-0.43; 0.74] (figure 1B).

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3 Concerning the drug-PT association dasabuvir-hyperbilirubinaemia, a positive signal was detectable
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5 on April 14, 2015. At this date 77 patients had been receiving dasabuvir and the estimated IC was
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7 1.26, 95%CI [0.02; 2.51] (figure 2A). Similarly, a positive signal was detectable on March 12, 2015 for
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9 the associations of hyperbilirubinaemia with ombitasvir and paritaprevir (always combined) with an
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11 estimated IC of 1.52, 95%CI [0.13; 2.92] and with ritonavir (combined with ombitasvir and
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13 paritaprevir but sometimes used as a booster with other drugs) with an estimated IC of 1.42, 95%CI
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15 [0.03; 2.80].
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20 Positive HCV drug-AE associations not known as ADRs

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22 Among the eight positive drug-PT associations which were not identified in the safety notices (table
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24 A2-1 in appendix 2), the association between ledipasvir (always combined with sofosbuvir as fixed-
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26 dose pill) and chest pain (PT) was detectable on July 3, 2015 with an estimated IC of 1.36, 95%CI
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28 [0.08; 2.65]. By this date, 1243 patients had received ledipasvir, 1058 AEs had been reported during
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30 the ledipasvir at-risk period, and a total of 17 episodes of chest pain (6 during the ledipasvir at-risk
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32 period) had been reported. The estimated IC reached 1.19, 95%CI [0.10; 2.29] on August 28, 2016
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34 when 2100 patients had received ledipasvir (figure 3). We performed additional analysis as this
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36 positive association between ledipasvir and chest pain could be potentially confounded by the
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38 systematic combination of ledipasvir with sofosbuvir, and in some patients with advanced liver
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40 disease, to the added use of ribavirin. Chest pain is one reported symptom of anaemia, a frequent AE
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42 caused by ribavirin. However, we could not detect associations either between sofosbuvir and chest
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44 pain, (estimated IC -0.01, 95%CI [-0.88; 0.86]) or between ribavirin and chest pain (estimated IC -
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46 0.04, 95%CI [-1.07; 0.98]). Investigation of the cohort database for these 9 ledipasvir-chest pain
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48 reports revealed that one chest pain episode was attributed by the clinician investigator to
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50 pulmonary mycobacterial infection and one occurred in a patient with a recent history of colorectal
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52 cancer, but we did not identify any other potential specific causes in the other patients. The delay
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54 between the first intake of ledipasvir and onset of chest pain was on average 91 days (min: 48 days;
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3 max: 210 days). The other detected positive drug-PT associations which were not known ADR (ranked
4 by order of IC) were simeprevir-sunburn, simeprevir-dyspepsia, ledipasvir-depressed mood,
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6 telaprevir-neutropenia, daclatasvir-varices oesophageal, ledipasvir-vertigo and daclatasvir-oedema
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8 peripheral.
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11 Five positive drug-SOC associations which were not reported in the safety notices were found (table
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13 A2-2 in appendix 2), including an association between asunaprevir and cardiac disorders. The specific
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15 AEs reported in patients exposed to asunaprevir were 3 atrial fibrillations and 1 cardiac failure.
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17 Although an association of atrial fibrillation with asunaprevir has been suspected but not
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19 confirmed²⁶, all patients who received asunaprevir also received daclatasvir, a drug which is known
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21 to be associated with some cardiac events.^{12,27,28} In addition, detailed clinical review showed that all
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23 patients who experienced asunaprevir-cardiac disorders had a past history of cardiac disorders and
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25 were receiving co-medications at the time of the event (including one patient treated with
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27 amiodarone). The delay between the first intake of asunaprevir and onset of cardiac event was on
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29 average 29 days (min: 0 days; max: 65 days). The other positive drug-SOC associations were
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31 peginterferon alpha-2b-surgical and medical procedures, simeprevir-injury poisoning and procedural
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33 complications, simeprevir-eye disorders and ledipasvir-vascular disorders.
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DISCUSSION

Disproportionality analysis can be applied to patient cohorts for early detection of potential ADRs. With a database of 6600 patients receiving HCV treatment, and 12,720 drug-AE pairs reported in different patients, we could detect 52 potential ADRs when the analysis was performed at the PT level (1.3% of the total drug-PT pairs) and 29 potential ADRs when the analysis was performed at the SOC level (7.8% of the total drug-SOC pairs). Eighty to eighty-five percent of detected potential ADRs were confirmed by a review of safety notices. In addition, the detection could occur early with a limited number of specific drug-AE reports, as illustrated by the positive association between simeprevir and photosensitivity reaction that was based on a total of only 4 reports and was detected just 1 month after market authorization for this drug in France. We found also that the method did not detect a lot of spurious associations, and as an illustration, no association was reported between sofosbuvir and photosensitivity reaction, a drug that is systematically combined with simeprevir but also combined with other antiviral drugs. The coincidental associations of hyperbilirubinemia with dasabuvir and ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir were expected as these drugs are to be given together; hyperbilirubinemia was almost surely caused by the boosted protease inhibitor Paritaprevir/ritonavir inhibition of the bilirubin transporter OATP1B1 as reported with other NS3 protease inhibitors.²⁹

Compared to the analysis at the SOC level, the analysis at the PT level decreased the rate of detected positive association among all reported drug-AE pairs. On the contrary, associations detected at the PT level might be more relevant to investigate as they are related to a more specific characterization of the ADRs.^{30,31} However, both analyses are recommended to increase sensitivity and specificity of signal detection.³²

There are several limitations in this study. First, we didn't distinguish between AEs reported with a prior knowledge of a potential ADR from those reported without such knowledge. For example, photosensitivity reaction reports with simeprevir might have been driven by prior specific awareness

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3 of this event when using this drug, and the detected signal could be a consequence of over-reporting
4 in simeprevir-treated patients (or of underreporting in patients receiving other treatments). By
5 contrast, prior knowledge of a potential ADR could bias the association towards the null if there was
6 an indication to use other drugs in at-risk patients. As a consequence, the association with the AE
7 could be detected with other unrelated drugs, a bias similar to reverse causality. Confounding by
8 indication and reverse causality also likely explain some striking positive (or negative) drug-AE
9 associations, such as the positive associations between daclatasvir with varices oesophageal or
10 oedema peripheral, as these events are complications of cirrhosis and daclatasvir was preferentially
11 prescribed to patients with cirrhosis at the initial stage of the cohort. These issues of confounding
12 and reverse causality could be addressed with adjustments on patient characteristics or using
13 statistical models for causal inference.³³

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26 Second, we performed the analysis at the drug level and not at the drug combination level, which
27 prevents detecting associations between AEs and specific drug-drug interactions. However, adapting
28 the method to explore the association of AEs with combinations of drugs would be straightforward.

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32 Third, we did not quantify the sensitivity and specificity of the disproportionality analysis on this
33 cohort databases with a limited number of patients. However, other works performed on simulated
34 data with millions of patients reported adequate performances in terms of sensitivity / specificity for
35 this method.^{10,34} We found that detected positive drug-AE associations were only slightly affected by
36 the choice of prior coefficients α_1 , α , β_1 and β . However the number of positive associations were
37 sensitive to the prior coefficient γ_{11} , related to the prior probability of a specific drug-AE association.
38 In addition, we showed that the positive predictive values of positive signal detection were over 80%
39 assuming that the positive drug-AE associations that were not reported in our reference set did not
40 correspond to unknown but nevertheless true ADRs.

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51 Fourth, the disproportionality method did not take into account the duration of exposure to the
52 different drugs, as this kind of information is usually not reported in pharmacovigilance database.
53 Other methods dealing with duration of exposure to a drug could be tested for that purpose, such as
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3 the Information Component Temporal Pattern Discovery (ICTPD),³⁵ the Longitudinal Gamma Poisson
4 Shrinker (LGPS)³⁶ or the Longitudinal Evaluation of Observational Profiles of Adverse Events Related
5 to Drugs (LEOPARD).³⁶ Their performances have been tested on real or simulated healthcare or
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7 observational databases,^{37,38} including millions of patients and reports. How these methods perform
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9 for early signal detection on cohorts of thousands of individuals with regularly updated databases
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11 remains to be evaluated.
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15 Fifth, variance and 95% credible intervals calculations were performed under the hypothesis of a
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17 normal distribution for the IC, and this assumption may not hold true when the number of drug-AE
18
19 pairs are limited. In this case, other methods based on Monte-Carlo simulations or tabular methods
20
21 can be used.¹⁸
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24 A final limitation, common to all signal detection methods, is the impossibility to draw conclusions
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26 from a detected association on the causal relationship between exposure to the drug and the AE: any
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28 detected signal has to be explored for clinical validation.^{11,39-41}
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31 To conclude, the disproportionality method can help with early detection of drug-AE associations
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33 using information collected from cohorts of thousands of patients. Other methods that take account
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35 of the duration of exposure could also be promising in this context and warrant further explorations.
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For Review Only

Table 1. Two by two contingency table for a drug-AE pair i - j

| | Drug i | Drugs $\neq i$ | total |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| AE j | $a = c_{ij}$ | b | c_j |
| AEs $\neq j$ | c | d | |
| total | c_i | | C |

For Review Only

Table 2. Patients characteristics

| | HCV past or present |
|---|---------------------|
| N | 14,599 |
| Age (yr). Mean \pm SD | 60 \pm 12 |
| Sex male, % | 65% (5378) |
| Cirrhosis, % | 31% (4545) |
| Hepatitis duration † (yr). Mean \pm SD | 15 \pm 8 |
| Patient given at least one HCV treatment | 6600 |
| Patients treated with each drug, %: ‡ | |
| Sofosbuvir | 89.9% (5932) |
| Ribavirin | 37.2% (2456) |
| Daclatasvir | 34.2% (2259) |
| Ledipasvir | 31.8% (2096) |
| Simeprevir | 14.7% (969) |
| Ritonavir | 7.6% (499) |
| Ombitasvir | 7.5% (496) |
| Paritaprevir | 7.5% (496) |
| Pegylated interferon | 7.1% (470) |
| Dasabuvir | 5.8% (386) |
| Telaprevir | 1% (64) |
| Boceprevir | 0.4% (25) |
| Elbasvir | 0.3% (18) |
| Grazoprevir | 0.2% (16) |
| Asunaprevir | 0.2% (13) |
| Patients experiencing AE during the at risk period § | 3464 |
| Patients experiencing serious AE during the at risk period § | 760 |
| AE during the at risk period § | 12,720 |
| Serious AE during the at risk period § | 1321 |

† at inclusion

‡ most frequent combinations of drugs were sofosbuvir/daclatasvir+/-ribavirin (n = 2184), sofosbuvir/ledipasvir+/-ribavirin (n = 2092), sofosbuvir/simeprevir+/-ribavirin (n = 914), sofosbuvir/ribavirin (n = 560), sofosbuvir/pegylated interferon/ribavirin (n = 273), telaprevir/pegylated interferon/ribavirin (n = 46), pegylated interferon/ribavirin (n = 107), boceprevir/pegylated interferon/ribavirin (n = 9), ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir/dasabuvir+/-ribavirin (n = 382), ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir +/-ribavirin (n = 115), elbasvir/grazoprevir+/-sofosbuvir (n = 16), others (n = 74)

§ from first treatment intake to D+30 after last treatment intake

Table 3. Distribution of the number of drug-AE pairs reported

| | 1 | 2 | 3 to 9 | 10 to 99 | 100 and more | Total |
|------------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| PT | 2205 | 581 | 764 | 423 | 60 | 4033 |
| SOC | 48 | 17 | 84 | 121 | 65 | 335 |

For Review Only

Table 4. IC results by August 28, 2016

| | PT n (%) | SOC n (%) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| IC > 0 | 52 (1.3%) | 26 (7.8%) |
| IC includes 0 | 3933 (97.6%) | 286 (85.4%) |
| IC < 0 | 43 (1.1%) | 23 (6.9%) |

For Review Only

FIGURE LEGENDS

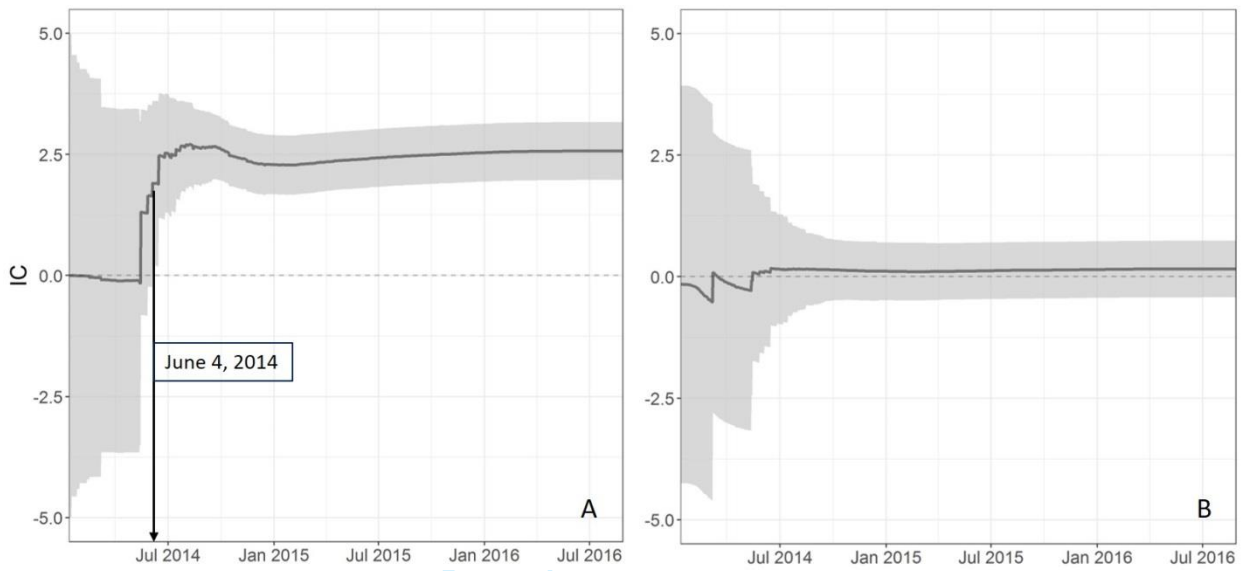
Figure 1. Change in IC between January 10, 2014 and August 28, 2016 for the associations of photosensitivity reaction (PT) with simeprevir (A) and sofosbuvir (B). IC plotted at daily intervals with 95% credible intervals shown.

Figure 2. Change in IC between January 22, 2015 and August 28, 2016 for the associations of hyperbilirubinaemia (PT) with dasabuvir (A), ombitasvir (B), paritaprevir (B) and ritonavir (C). IC plotted at daily intervals with 95% credible intervals shown.

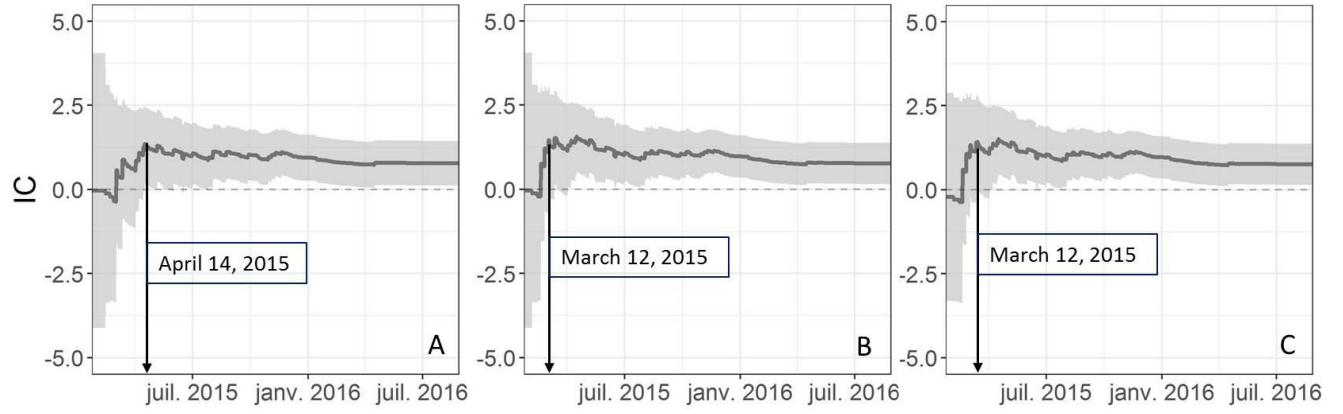
Figure 3. Change in IC between April 29, 2013 and August 28, 2016 for the associations of chest pain (PT) with ledipasvir. IC plotted at daily intervals with 95% credible intervals shown.

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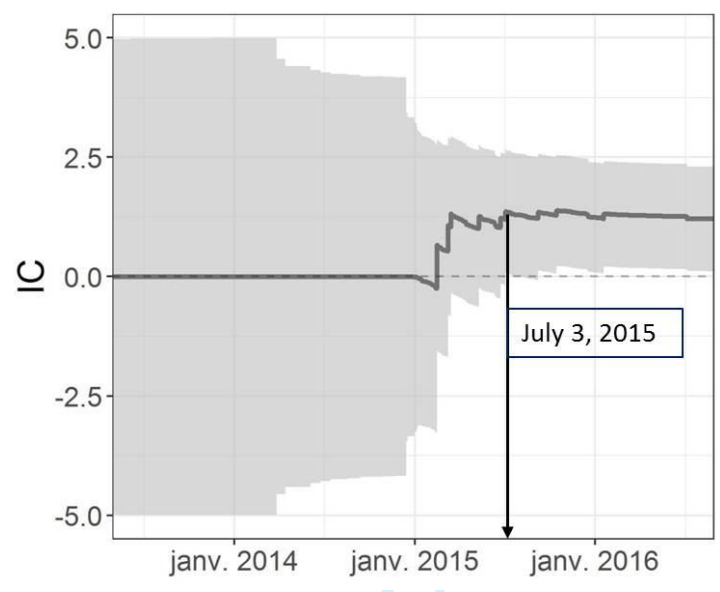


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APPENDIX 1:

Table A1- Source of summary of products characteristics

| International non-proprietary name | Trade name | Source | Language | First published | Last updated |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Daclatasvir | Daklinza | EMA | English | 15/09/2014 | 15/03/2017 |
| Boceprevir | Victrelis | EMA | English | 03/08/2011 | 21/11/2017 |
| Peginterferon alpha-2a | pegasys | EMA | English | 16/11/2009 | 18/10/2017 |
| Peginterferon alpha 2b | PegIntron | EMA | English | 17/09/2009 | 23/08/2017 |
| Simeprevir | Olysio | EMA | English | 04/06/2014 | 22/08/2017 |
| Asunaprevir | | Not available | | | |
| Dasabuvir | Exviera | EMA | English | 12/02/2015 | 17/10/2017 |
| Telaprevir | Incivo | EMA | English | 03/10/2011 | 06/10/2016 |
| Ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir | Viekirax | EMA | English | 09/03/2015 | 16/10/2017 |
| Ritonavir | Norvir | EMA | English | 15/11/2009 | 27/10/2017 |
| Sofosbuvir | Sovaldi | EMA | English | 05/02/2014 | 18/10/2017 |
| Grazoprevir/elbasvir | Zepatier | EMA | English | 28/07/2016 | 17/05/2017 |
| Ledipasvir/sofosbuvir | Harvoni | EMA | English | 04/12/2014 | 05/09/2017 |
| Ribavirin | Rebetol | EMA | English | 22/10/2009 | 29/03/2017 |

EMA: European Medicines Agency

APPENDIX 2

Table A2-1 AE-drug positive associations with HCV therapy at the PT level, in decreasing order of IC.

| Drug | Event (PT) | Date of detection | Patients treated with drug i † | c_i † | c_j † | c_{ij} † | C † | IC ‡ | ADR reported in the reference set |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|-------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Simeprevir | Photosensitivity reaction | June 4, 2014 | 68 | 157 | 6 | 4 | 3271 | 2.52 [1.92-3.12] | Yes |
| Telaprevir | Anal pruritus | June 2, 2014 | 62 | 248 | 4 | 4 | 3159 | 2.11 [0.42-3.81] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Neutropenia | March 19, 2014 | 214 | 700 | 82 | 62 | 1315 | 1.85 [1.55-2.15] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Influenza like illness | May 15, 2014 | 280 | 1148 | 46 | 32 | 2701 | 1.84 [1.32-2.36] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Sunburn | July 11, 2014 | 225 | 314 | 4 | 4 | 4539 | 1.82 [0.28-3.37] | No |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2b</i> | Influenza like illness | June 15, 2014 | 32 | 103 | 49 | 5 | 3751 | 1.78 [0.61-2.95] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon</i> (no more precision) | Neutropenia | June 15, 2014 | 18 | 43 | 174 | 6 | 3751 | 1.71 [0.67-2.74] | Yes |
| Boceprevir | Anaemia | April 15, 2014 | 24 | 62 | 61 | 6 | 1909 | 1.67 [0.51-2.83] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon</i> (no more precision) | Leukopenia | August 4, 2014 | 20 | 51 | 261 | 7 | 5282 | 1.55 [0.57-2.54] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Leukopenia | March 25, 2014 | 221 | 747 | 103 | 74 | 1429 | 1.46 [1.18-1.73] | Yes |
| Boceprevir | Neutropenia | October 15, 2014 | 25 | 64 | 236 | 6 | 7275 | 1.45 [0.29-2.61] | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------|------|-----|----|--------|------------------|-----|
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2b</i> | Neutropenia | April 28, 2014 | 29 | 80 | 119 | 10 | 2146 | 1.36 [0.47-2.24] | Yes |
| Boceprevir | Leukopenia | October 15, 2014 | 25 | 64 | 305 | 7 | 7275 | 1.33 [0.24-2.42] | Yes |
| Ledipasvir | Chest pain | July 3, 2015 | 1243 | 1058 | 17 | 6 | 11,085 | 1.19 [0.10-2.29] | No |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Thrombocytopenia | June 10, 2014 | 310 | 1275 | 160 | 79 | 3438 | 1.16 [0.84-1.48] | Yes |
| Telaprevir | Anaemia | June 17, 2014 | 64 | 257 | 89 | 12 | 3813 | 1.13 [0.29-1.97] | Yes |
| Dasabuvir | Hyperbilirubinaemia | April 14, 2015 | 77 | 67 | 224 | 5 | 10,195 | 1.08 [0.34-1.81] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Dyspepsia | November 19, 2014 | 746 | 1256 | 25 | 10 | 8055 | 1.07 [0.14-2.00] | No |
| Ledipasvir | Depressed mood | November 30, 2015 | 1743 | 1570 | 32 | 10 | 12,088 | 0.97 [0.00-1.93] | No |
| Telaprevir | Neutropenia | May 15, 2015 | 65 | 265 | 276 | 13 | 10,627 | 0.94 [0.13-1.75] | No |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2b</i> | Leukopenia | December 16, 2014 | 36 | 123 | 331 | 10 | 8548 | 0.93 [0.01-1.85] | Yes |
| Dasabuvir | Pruritus | March 16, 2015 | 35 | 34 | 247 | 4 | 9891 | 0.92 [0.28-1.56] | Yes |
| Ombitasvir | Pruritus | June 15, 2015 | 159 | 212 | 271 | 12 | 10,938 | 0.91 [0.35-1.47] | Yes |
| Paritaprevir | Pruritus | June 15, 2015 | 159 | 212 | 271 | 12 | 10,938 | 0.91 [0.35-1.47] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Rash | March 31, 2015 | 910 | 1612 | 67 | 19 | 10,046 | 0.88 [0.19-1.58] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Weight decreased | October 15, 2015 | 415 | 1790 | 52 | 15 | 11,834 | 0.87 [0.05-1.69] | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------|------|-----|----|--------|------------------|-----|
| Ombitasvir | Hyperbilirubinaemia | March 12, 2015 | 41 | 32 | 217 | 4 | 9732 | 0.83 [0.21-1.45] | Yes |
| Paritaprevir | Hyperbilirubinaemia | March 12, 2015 | 41 | 32 | 217 | 4 | 9732 | 0.83 [0.21-1.45] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Gamma-glutamyltransferase increased | October 13, 2014 | 378 | 1608 | 127 | 42 | 7063 | 0.82 [0.33-1.31] | Yes |
| Ritonavir | Pruritus | June 15, 2015 | 162 | 218 | 271 | 12 | 10,938 | 0.82 [0.26-1.37] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Decreased appetite | July 15, 2014 | 335 | 1443 | 67 | 32 | 4816 | 0.80 [0.32-1.28] | Yes |
| Daclatasvir | Varices oesophageal | May 13, 2014 | 276 | 466 | 10 | 7 | 2505 | 0.76 [0.13-1.40] | No |
| Simeprevir | Hyperbilirubinaemia | June 24, 2014 | 143 | 218 | 94 | 11 | 3980 | 0.76 [0.35-1.17] | Yes |
| Ritonavir | Hyperbilirubinaemia | March 12, 2015 | 44 | 38 | 217 | 4 | 9732 | 0.74 [0.13-1.35] | Yes |
| Ledipasvir | Headache | January 13, 2015 | 82 | 33 | 448 | 6 | 8870 | 0.72 [0.48-0.97] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Pruritus | March 3, 2014 | 14 | 31 | 31 | 5 | 987 | 0.69 [0.30-1.08] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Cough | June 27, 2014 | 328 | 1373 | 32 | 20 | 4122 | 0.68 [0.05-1.31] | Yes |
| Ritonavir | Asthenia | May 29, 2015 | 145 | 168 | 962 | 24 | 10,728 | 0.66 [0.35-0.97] | Yes |
| Ledipasvir | Vertigo | April 12, 2015 | 814 | 580 | 93 | 11 | 10,164 | 0.66 [0.08-1.24] | No |
| Ribavirine | Dyspnoea exertional | October 22, 2014 | 1239 | 4169 | 65 | 54 | 7433 | 0.65 [0.25-1.04] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Influenza like illness | October 3, 2014 | 1189 | 4009 | 64 | 55 | 6878 | 0.63 [0.17-1.09] | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------|------|-----|-----|--------|------------------|-----|
| Ombitasvir | Asthenia | May 27, 2015 | 140 | 160 | 960 | 23 | 10,715 | 0.62 [0.31-0.93] | Yes |
| Paritaprevir | Asthenia | May 27, 2015 | 140 | 160 | 960 | 23 | 10,715 | 0.62 [0.31-0.93] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Anaemia | August 22, 2014 | 341 | 1516 | 117 | 44 | 5858 | 0.58 [0.13-1.03] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Anaemia | August 18, 2014 | 1064 | 3617 | 115 | 96 | 5763 | 0.58 [0.29-0.86] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Neutropenia | July 8, 2014 | 978 | 3120 | 195 | 171 | 4418 | 0.57 [0.31-0.83] | Yes |
| Daclatasvir | Oedema peripheral | November 15, 2014 | 1454 | 3487 | 57 | 39 | 7968 | 0.56 [0.06-1.06] | No |
| Ribavirine | Dyspnoea | November 22, 2014 | 1306 | 4369 | 103 | 76 | 8105 | 0.51 [0.18-0.84] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Leukopenia | July 10, 2014 | 987 | 3153 | 238 | 202 | 4512 | 0.51 [0.29-0.73] | Yes |
| Ledipasvir | Asthenia | January 21, 2015 | 168 | 61 | 783 | 11 | 9065 | 0.45 [0.25-0.66] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Cough | February 15, 2016 | 2536 | 6211 | 107 | 73 | 12,499 | 0.44 [0.01-0.88] | Yes |
| Daclatasvir | Arthralgia | July 15, 2014 | 848 | 1722 | 49 | 29 | 4816 | 0.43 [0.04-0.81] | Yes |

c_i is the number of reports of a specific drug in the database, c_j the number of reports of a specific AE in the database. c_{ij} is the number of times a specific drug-AE association was reported, and C is the total number of events. ADR: adverse drug reaction. † at the date of detection. ‡ at the date of August 28, 2016

Table A2-2 AE-drug positive associations with HCV therapy at the SOC level, in decreasing order of IC.

| Drug | Event (SOC) | Date of detection | Patients treated with drug $i\ddagger$ | $c_i\ddagger$ | $c_j\ddagger$ | $c_{ij}\ddagger$ | $C\ddagger$ | $IC\ddagger$ | ADR reported in the reference set |
|--|---|--------------------|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Asunaprevir | Cardiac disorders | August 8, 2014 | 13 | 64 | 36 | 4 | 5404 | 1.78 [0.37-3.19] | No |
| Boceprevir | Blood and lymphatic system disorders | March 15, 2014 | 23 | 62 | 279 | 24 | 1230 | 1.68 [1.01-2.36] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon</i> (no more precision) | Blood and lymphatic system disorders | May 27, 2014 | 17 | 27 | 578 | 13 | 3022 | 1.46 [0.78-2.15] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Endocrine disorders | October 15, 2014 | 378 | 1635 | 8 | 7 | 7275 | 1.36 [0.10-2.63] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2a</i> | Blood and lymphatic system disorders | March 5, 2014 | 185 | 575 | 244 | 166 | 1029 | 1.34 [1.18-1.50] | Yes |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha-2b</i> | Surgical and medical procedures | September 10, 2014 | 34 | 116 | 73 | 5 | 6224 | 1.31 [0.07-2.55] | No |
| Simeprevir | Injury poisoning and procedural complications | July 11, 2014 | 225 | 314 | 26 | 6 | 4539 | 1.16 [0.56-1.76] | No |
| <i>Peginterferon alpha 2b</i> | Blood and lymphatic system disorders | February 7, 2014 | 20 | 61 | 156 | 25 | 644 | 1.04 [0.48-1.60] | Yes |
| Dasabuvir | Hepatobiliary disorders | April 14, 2015 | 77 | 67 | 294 | 6 | 10,195 | 0.97 [0.34-1.60] | Yes |
| Telaprevir | Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders | November 29, 2013 | 43 | 130 | 31 | 18 | 443 | 0.80 [0.26-1.33] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders | May 15, 2014 | 43 | 115 | 171 | 15 | 2701 | 0.79 [0.56-1.02] | Yes |
| Ombitasvir | Hepatobiliary disorders | April 7, 2015 | 79 | 69 | 291 | 6 | 10,107 | 0.79 [0.24-1.33] | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------|------|------|------|-----|--------|------------------|-----|
| Paritaprevir | Hepatobiliary disorders | April 7, 2015 | 79 | 69 | 291 | 6 | 10,107 | 0.79 [0.24-1.33] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Hepatobiliary disorders | June 20, 2014 | 132 | 204 | 115 | 12 | 3881 | 0.73 [0.37-1.09] | Yes |
| Ritonavir | Hepatobiliary disorders | April 8, 2015 | 84 | 78 | 292 | 7 | 10,128 | 0.70 [0.16-1.25] | Yes |
| Telaprevir | Blood and lymphatic system disorders | December 3, 2014 | 65 | 265 | 1059 | 47 | 8305 | 0.70 [0.24-1.15] | Yes |
| Simeprevir | Eye disorders | September 18, 2014 | 468 | 765 | 68 | 15 | 6537 | 0.62 [0.04-1.21] | No |
| Ledipasvir | Vascular disorders | July 7, 2015 | 1251 | 1086 | 145 | 24 | 11,127 | 0.54 [0.01-1.06] | No |
| Ledipasvir | Nervous system disorders | January 12, 2015 | 75 | 28 | 740 | 7 | 8845 | 0.52 [0.31-0.73] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Blood and lymphatic system disorders | May 26, 2014 | 789 | 2392 | 566 | 510 | 2976 | 0.45 [0.33-0.57] | Yes |
| Ribavirine | Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders | July 31, 2014 | 1033 | 3412 | 208 | 168 | 5231 | 0.41 [0.22-0.61] | Yes |
| Ritonavir | General disorders and administration site conditions | May 30, 2015 | 146 | 169 | 1645 | 38 | 10,729 | 0.33 [0.06-0.61] | Yes |
| Ledipasvir | General disorders and administration site conditions | February 15, 2015 | 399 | 210 | 1409 | 45 | 9438 | 0.32 [0.15-0.49] | Yes |
| Ombitasvir | General disorders and administration site conditions | May 30, 2015 | 143 | 163 | 1645 | 37 | 10,729 | 0.31 [0.03-0.59] | Yes |
| Paritaprevir | General disorders and administration site conditions | May 30, 2015 | 143 | 163 | 1645 | 37 | 10,729 | 0.31 [0.03-0.59] | Yes |
| Daclatasvir | Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders | September 16, 2014 | 1135 | 2709 | 326 | 167 | 6460 | 0.28 [0.09-0.48] | Yes |

c_i is the number of reports of a specific drug in the database, c_j the number of reports of a specific AE in the database. c_{ij} is the number of times a specific drug-AE association was reported, and C is the total number of events. ADR: adverse drug reaction. † at the date of detection. ‡ at the date of August 28, 2016

APPENDIX 3:

We explored the impact of modifying the prior coefficients on the total number of detected positive signals. For drug-AE pairs with a positive signal at both baseline and for other choices of coefficients, we calculated the mean difference of detection times between the scenarios (in days). A negative mean difference indicated an earlier positive signal in the sensitivity analysis than with our baseline non-informative priors.

At the PT level of analysis, 45 of 52 positive associations detected with our baseline choice for prior coefficients were also detected using other coefficient combinations. The highest absolute mean difference between detection times was 35.54 days. At the SOC level, 22 of 26 positive associations detected with our baseline choice for prior coefficients were also detected using all 30 combinations, and the highest absolute mean difference was 22.12 days (table A3-1 & 2). Overall this sensitivity analysis shows that our results were slightly affected by different choices for the prior coefficients α_1 , α , β_1 and β . However the number of positive associations were sensitive to the prior coefficient γ_{11} , related to the prior probability of a specific drug-AE association.

Table A3-1 Sensitivity analysis at the PT level with 30 different combinations of coefficients.

| Combination _i | α_1 | α | β_1 | β | γ_{11} | positive signals by August 28, 2016 (N) | Mean relative detection time (baseline reference: combination 11), days |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 62 | -17.52 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 69 | -24.00 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 62 | -17.46 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 63 | -21.31 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 62 | -17.46 |
| 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 70 | -28.37 |
| 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 69 | -23.96 |
| 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 63 | -21.31 |
| 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 61 | -17.46 |
| 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0.5 | 56 | -6.27 |
| 11† | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 52 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 53 | -11.79 |
| 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 52 | 0.02 |
| 14 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 53 | -0.35 |
| 15 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 52 | 0.02 |
| 16 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 53 | -12.13 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 53 | -11.77 |
| 18 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 53 | -0.33 |
| 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 52 | 0.10 |
| 20 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 50 | 4.54 |
| 21 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 46 | 26.29 |
| 22 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 48 | 20.92 |
| 23 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 46 | 26.38 |
| 24 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 47 | 31.06 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|-------|
| 25 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 46 | 26.38 |
| 26 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 49 | 19.73 |
| 27 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 48 | 20.96 |
| 28 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 47 | 31.06 |
| 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 46 | 26.48 |
| 30 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 45 | 35.54 |

†Baseline

Table A3-2 Sensitivity analysis at the SOC level with 30 different combinations of coefficients.

| Combination _i | α_1 | α | β_1 | β | γ_{11} | positive signals by August 28, 2016 (N) | Mean relative detection time (baseline reference: combination 11), days |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------------|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 26 | -14.77 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 26 | -20.50 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.5 | 26 | -14.77 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 26 | -15.46 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 26 | -14.77 |
| 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 26 | -22.12 |
| 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 26 | -20.50 |
| 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 26 | -15.42 |
| 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 26 | -14.77 |
| 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0.5 | 26 | -9.23 |
| 11† | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 26 | -2.12 |
| 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 0.00 |
| 14 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 26 | -1.38 |
| 15 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 0.00 |
| 16 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 26 | -8.15 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 26 | -2.12 |
| 18 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 26 | -1.38 |
| 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 0.00 |
| 20 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 2.65 |
| 21 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 2.26 |
| 22 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 8.96 |
| 23 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 2.35 |
| 24 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 1.39 |
| 25 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 2.35 |
| 26 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 8.13 |
| 27 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 8.96 |
| 28 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 1.39 |
| 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 2.35 |
| 30 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 3.61 |

†Baseline

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

The Editors of *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety* recognize that most studies in pharmacoepidemiology cost money and thus pose a potential conflict of interest. As a conflict of interest may affect the assessment or judgment of an author, we ask that **all** authors (not just the Corresponding Author) complete the following form.

For Co-authors: Please complete questions 4-10. Completed forms should be saved, and emailed as an attachment to the Corresponding Author.

For Corresponding Authors: Please complete all questions. It is the responsibility of the Corresponding Author to submit completed forms on behalf of all co-authors via Manuscript Central at the point of manuscript submission.

Corresponding author only (Co-authors go to Question 4):

POTENTIAL STUDY INTERPRETATION CONFLICTS

1. Some or all of the data that were used in this study were provided by a company with a vested interest in the product being studied. No
2. The sponsor of this project had the right of commenting but the authors retained the right to accept or reject comments or suggestions. No
3. The sponsor of this project had the right of final editing and/or approval of the manuscript submitted. No

Corresponding author and Co-authors:

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL CONFLICTS

4. I, my spouse, or one of my dependent children is an employee of a company whose product is being studied. No
5. I, my spouse, or one of my dependent children has significant equity interest (>USD 10,000) in the company that owns the product being studied. No

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3 6. In the past three years I have:
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42 Sarah F FELDMAN
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25 Oral presentations, boards, invitations for national and international meetings, sub investigator for
26 therapeutic trials: BMS, Gilead, MSD, Roche, Janssen and Abbvie.
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