Viral hepatitis elimination in Latin America and globally: How close are we?

Debate: Micro elimination is not possible
Sunday, 21 July 2019, 12:00 – 12:20
Micro-elimination is not possible!

Things to consider:

• Where did the term micro-elimination come from?

• What is it?

• And how do we know it can work or is working – mathematical models and empiric data
Micro-elimination – it is a made up term!

- Could apply to a sub-population, a geographic area, or anything else that springs to mind
- The idea is you can “get the job done” – in a short space of time
- It is the *fast food take away* of the elimination response
- Essentially – it is elimination for people who lack the ability to concentrate and are concerned that they will have retired before the job is done, so they want to get some short term glory now

What is the proper definition of elimination

Elimination refers to the reduction to zero of new cases in a defined geographical area as a result of deliberate efforts.

Control: The reduction of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity or mortality to a locally acceptable level as a result of deliberate efforts. Continued intervention measures are required to maintain the reduction.

WHO and the United Nations know we aren’t talking about elimination or micro-elimination or other such nonsense.

- WHO targets – the elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat
- SDGs: 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

So really what these guys are asking for is micro-control!
Micro-control – it sounds a little weird
Modelling to support elimination and micro-elimination

Modelling schmodelling

Projected annual HCV incidence in Iceland

For various treatment regimens

Projected annual testing of PWID in OT

Burnet Institute
Medical Research, Practical Vision
Empiric data – none!

All islands - and they still can’t micro-eliminate Sad!!!
To conclude

• Micro-elimination is a made up term by a bunch of white middle class white guys who couldn’t be bothered concentrating long enough to even check the proper meaning of the term, and who wanted to look like they got something done before the retired.

• They support their argument by a bunch of quasi voodoo modelling, undertaken by people who probably haven’t done an honest days work in their life, who overcall assumptions based on limited or spurious numbers - and then tell us its all OK because the did a sensitivity analysis.

• Micro-elimination doesn’t really exist, if it did exist in theory the science to support it actually happening in reality is shonky.

• There is no evidence to support it.