

Introduction

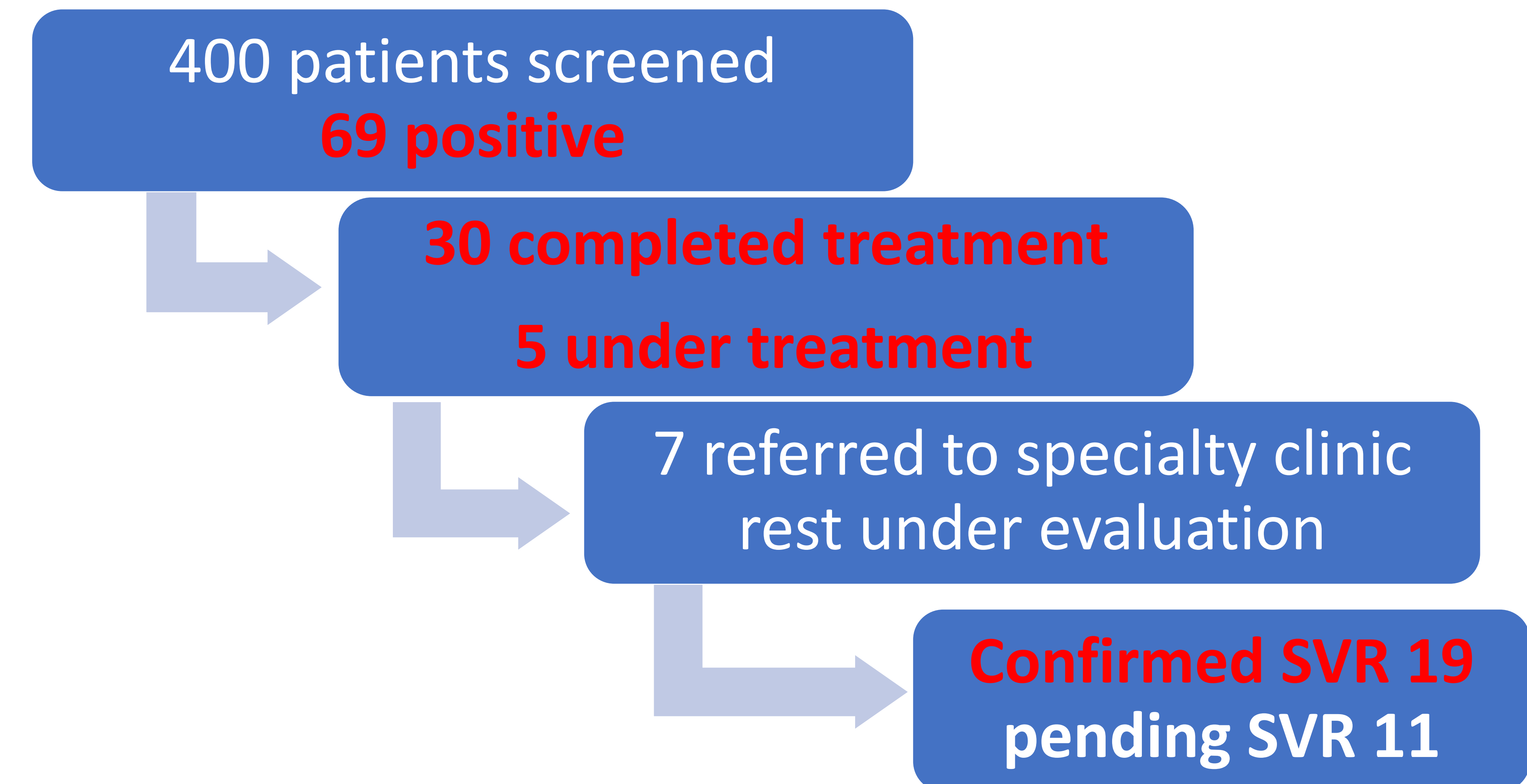
In the US, there has been a **dramatic rise in hepatitis C infection** and a shifting demographic with the highest rates in persons aged 20-39 years. Injection drug use is the most common mode of transmission. While many novel strategies to expanding hepatitis C treatment have been proposed, there has been little reported progress toward establishing a standardized, wide-scale approach. In response, we developed a **pilot quality improvement program** combining screening and initiation of hepatitis C treatment utilizing a simplified algorithm adapted for the office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) to provide co-localization of substance use and hepatitis C treatment.

Methods

Patient screening began in 1/2021 and was expanded to include Carilion Clinic Psychiatry and OB/GYN OBOT programs throughout the health system by April 2021. Individuals with HIV or HBV co-infection, significantly impaired hepatic function, pregnancy, or fibrosis score ≥ 3 were referred to GI for their care. The remaining patients were eligible for active intervention with a DAA and monitoring over the course of their treatment with final follow-up after 8-12 weeks.

Results

As of September 2022, a total of 400 patients were screened for HCV. **74 (18.5%) patients** initially tested **positive**. Among patients screening positive for HCV, 7 were referred for specialty care treatment, 5 had spontaneous negative seroconversion, 27 are in the pre-treatment stage, and 35 are on treatment on site



Discussion:

Initial results revealed a high rate of seroprevalence among screened OBOT patients highlighting several challenges faced by this population including lack of awareness of infection and barriers to accessing care. Within this same group, **48.2% had either initiated or completed their course of DAA treatment within the first 6 months of the intervention phase of the program.**

Targeting patients in outpatient substance use treatment could identify a subset of at-risk individuals with a high propensity for engaging and facilitate following through with hepatitis C treatment.

On site treatment is an efficient alternative for treatment.