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I met Lola 6 years ago, she was 28, living in the street, consuming about anything, injecting heroin and morphine and drinking a lot. She had 2 children who had been taken away from her. She was infected with hepatitis C infection and her eldest daughter was found to be HCV positive at birth. She came to our centre to be helped with her drinking problem and to start a treatment for her hepatitis. She agreed to be hospitalized and to start taking methadone. Sadly, after her discharge she disappeared for almost a year.

When I saw her again, she was sober but living in a parking lot in winter. Helping her was a long task. We found her a place in a shelter, and then she found an apartment. I started her on slow-release morphine (SRM), although I knew she was injecting. She volunteered for education around her injecting, and started her hep C treatment. She felt very rough on the treatment with extreme tiredness, loss of hair, depression, and the treatment failed.

Slowly, we worked on the cessation of injection. In France SRM is sold under several forms: Skenan® which is a capsule, and Moscontin®, a sugar-coated tablet, more difficult to inject. Together we organized a progressive switch from Skenan® to Moscontin®, and soon she had (almost) stopped injecting. She was then made priority for access to the new direct antiviral agents (DAAs - Sofosbuvir) HCV treatment and cleared the virus.

I convinced her into bearing witness of her life career in front of professionals, infectious disease specialists, hepatologists and she sounded so authentic, so informed about her treatments that she certainly convinced everyone of the benefits of it.

I heard she is somehow back to her old life, on the road again, but she is back to the centre every now and then, when she needs OST, the link is not broken, and when she'll need it, she knows that she can find help with us.