Persistent Disparities in Meeting WHO/UNAIDS’ Targets for ART Coverage and ART-induced HIV-RNA Suppression across Europe

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AIMS

• To characterize country- and region-specific levels of proportion on ART among those in care and proportion virologically suppressed among those on ART

• To monitor temporal trends in ART coverage and virological suppression

PATIENTS AND METHODS

• People were included from all EuroSIDA clinics, and countries were grouped into regions as indicated in [PANEL 1].

• EuroSIDA participants were included if they had any follow-up between 01/01/2004 - 31/12/2005, 01/01/2009 – 31/12/2010 and/or 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2015. People were assessed at latest clinic visit, HIV-RNA measurement or CD4 measurement during each time period. If no measurement was available, the midpoint of the period was used.

• On ART among those in care was defined as receiving any ≥3 antiretrovirals and virologically suppressed among those on ART was defined as most recent HIV-RNA measurement within the time period assessed of <500 copies/mL

• Missing HIV-RNA measurement in time period assessed was considered unsuppressed (missing = failure)

RESULTS

• TABLE 1 gives baseline characteristics of the patients included

• Overall ART coverage within EuroSIDA increased from 68.0% in 2004/05 to 82.4% in 2014/15, and virological suppression among those on ART increased from 74.5% to 86.8% in the same time period. [FIGURE 1]

• However, the pattern differed significantly between participating clinics across countries, with country-specific proportions of ART coverage ranging from 63% to 98%, and virological suppression from 31% to 100% of those on ART in 2014/15 [FIGURE 1]

• In 2014-15, 63/5% (17%) countries had >80% ART coverage and >90% were virologically suppressed among those on ART [FIGURE 1]

• Of particular note, in 15/35 countries (43%) less than 90% of those on ART were virologically suppressed in 2014/15 [FIGURE 1]

• Improvements in ART-coverage ([FIGURE 2a]) and virological suppression ([FIGURE 2b]) varied significantly across regions over time (p<0.001), and differences could only partly be explained by adjusted.

• Regional differences in the level of virological suppression persisted in 2014/15 [FIGURE 3]

• While differences in the availability of HIV-RNA measurements could explain some of the observed differences, particularly in Northern Europe, the lower odds of virological suppression remained in Eastern Europe, even when excluding those with missing HIV-RNA [FIGURE 3]

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

• We found an overall increase in the proportion in care on ART and the proportion virologically suppressed among those on ART over the last decade

• 6/35 countries (17%) met the targets of >90% on ART and >90% virologically suppressed among those on ART in 2014-15, and in 15/35 countries (43%) less than 90% of those on ART had virological suppression

• The overall improvements covered very large differences in country-specific estimates, and both the level and rate of improvement varied between countries and regions

• The study design required that we used the definition “on ART among those in care” rather than “on ART among those diagnosed”. However, this allows for direct comparison of clinic performance without the impact of variation in linkage to care

• Guidelines on when to start ART have changed over the study period, and our study should not be seen as an adherence to guidelines study. However, the goal of virological suppression remains unchanged

• Although EuroSIDA patients are not necessarily representative of HIV care and management in the whole country, we were able to directly compare data from a large number of countries, including some with no national registries

• EuroSIDA will continue to monitor changes and variation in countries’ performance in the post-START era

References:


The abstract is presented on behalf of the EuroSIDA study group:

http://www.chip.dk/Studies/EuroSIDA/Study-group

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