

Regional Differences in Self-Reported HIV Care and Management in the EuroSIDA Study

K Laut¹, A Mocroft², JV Lazarus¹, P Reiss³, J Rockstroh⁴, I Karpov⁵, A Rakhmanova⁶,
B Knysz⁷, S Moreno⁸, P Gargalianos⁹, JD Lundgren¹, O Kirk¹, for EuroSIDA in EuroCoord

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Background

- HIV positive individuals in Eastern Europe (EE) have a poorer clinical outcome compared with individuals in other parts of Europe
 - Increased risk of AIDS-related mortality¹
 - Lower odds of virological response²
 - Regional differences remained even after adjustment for known patient-related factors^{1,2,3}

Hypothesis

- The observed poorer clinical outcome for HIV-positive individuals in EE may partly be explained by differences in the set-up for HIV management

Objective

- To explore regional variability in self-reported HIV management at individual EuroSIDA clinics

Methods

- Survey conducted in early 2014 in all currently active EuroSIDA clinics
- Questions related to HIV healthcare and clinical management of HIV-positive individuals
- EE clinics were compared to the rest of participating EuroSIDA clinics combined
- Fisher's exact test for association

Participating clinics

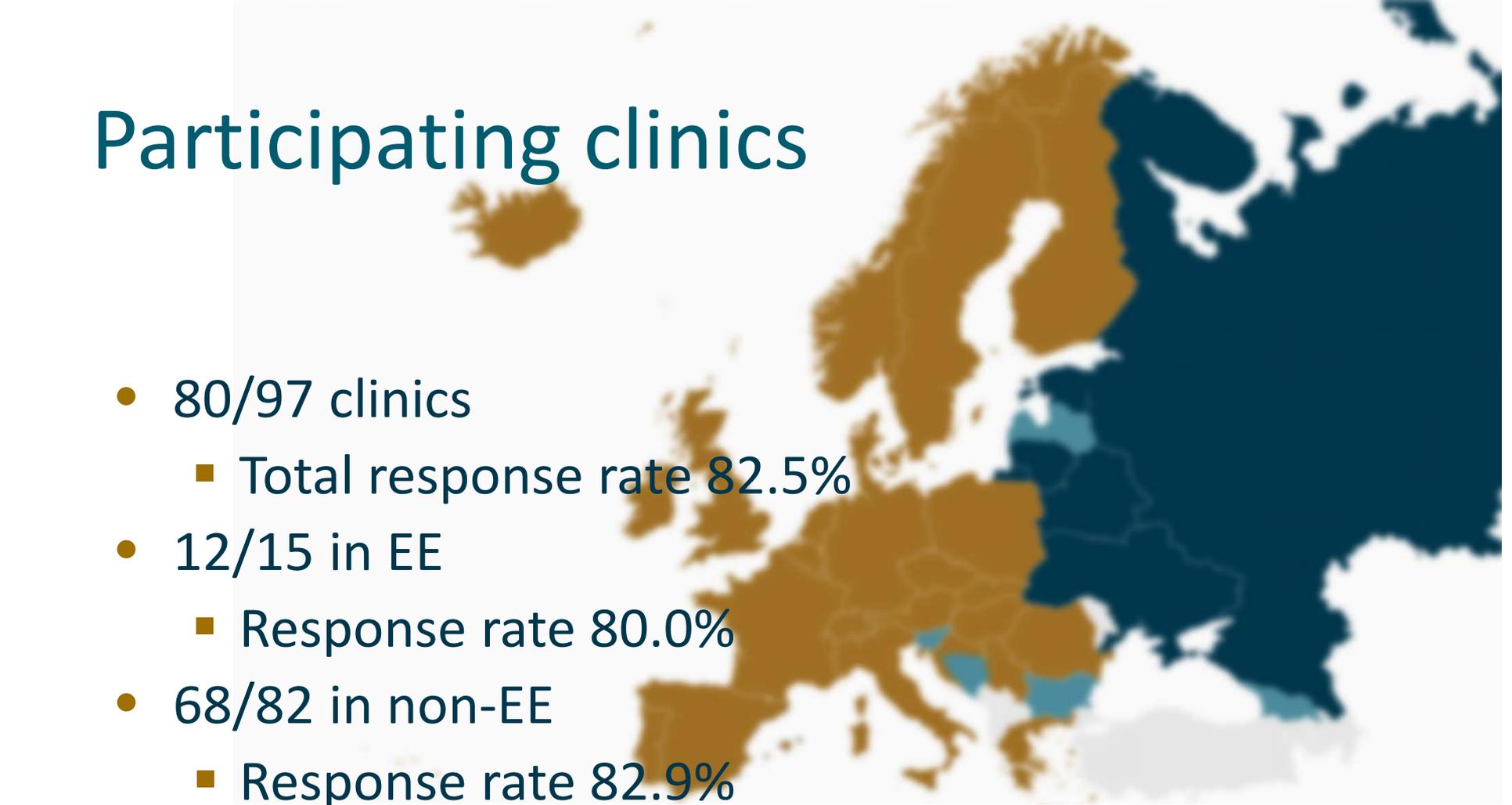


Eastern Europe (EE): Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Ukraine

All other European countries (non-EE): Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

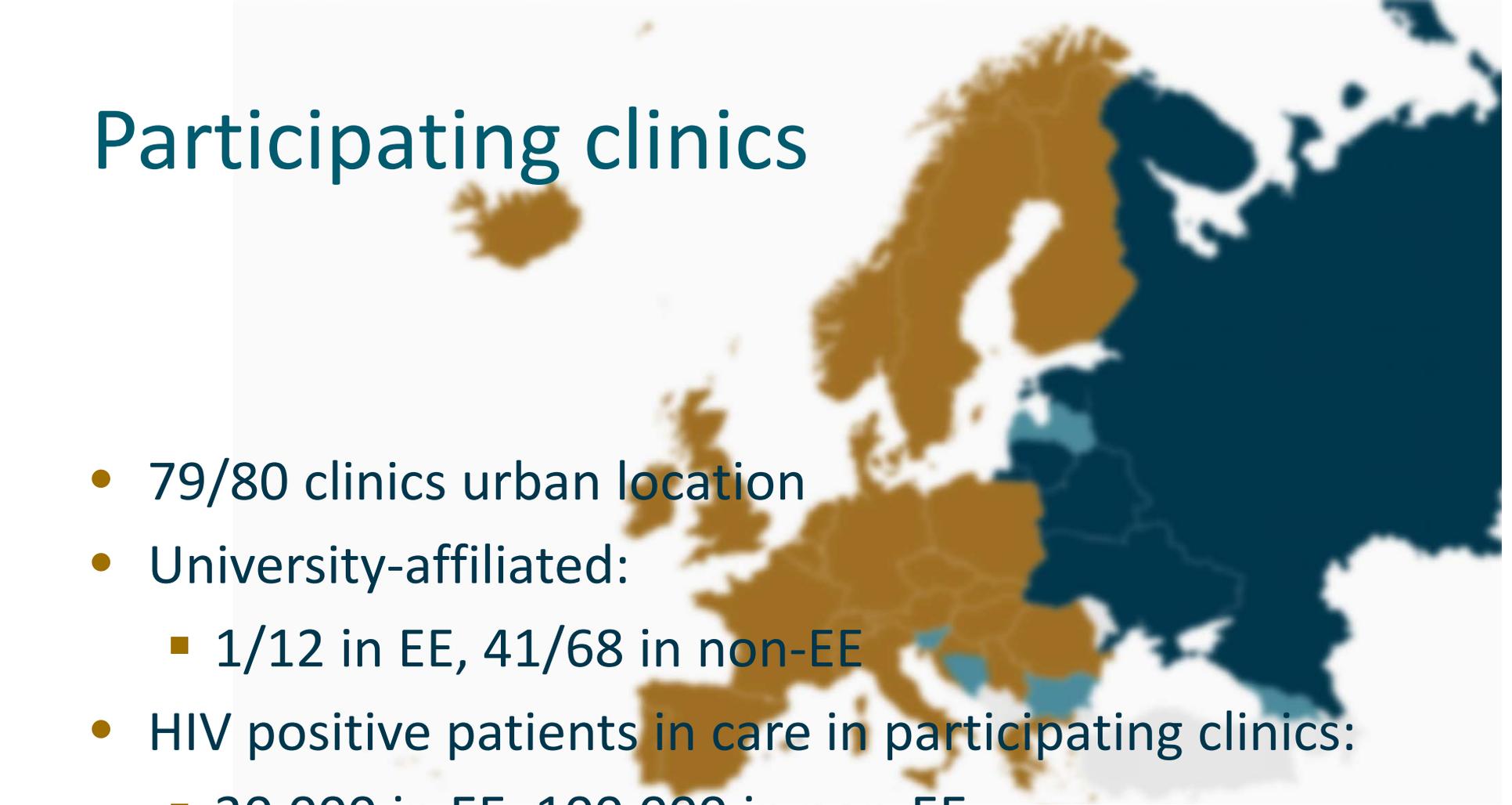
Non-participating EuroSIDA countries

Participating clinics

A map of Europe is shown in the background. Countries where participating clinics are located are highlighted in orange, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Turkey. Countries where non-participating clinics are located are shown in dark blue, including Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland.

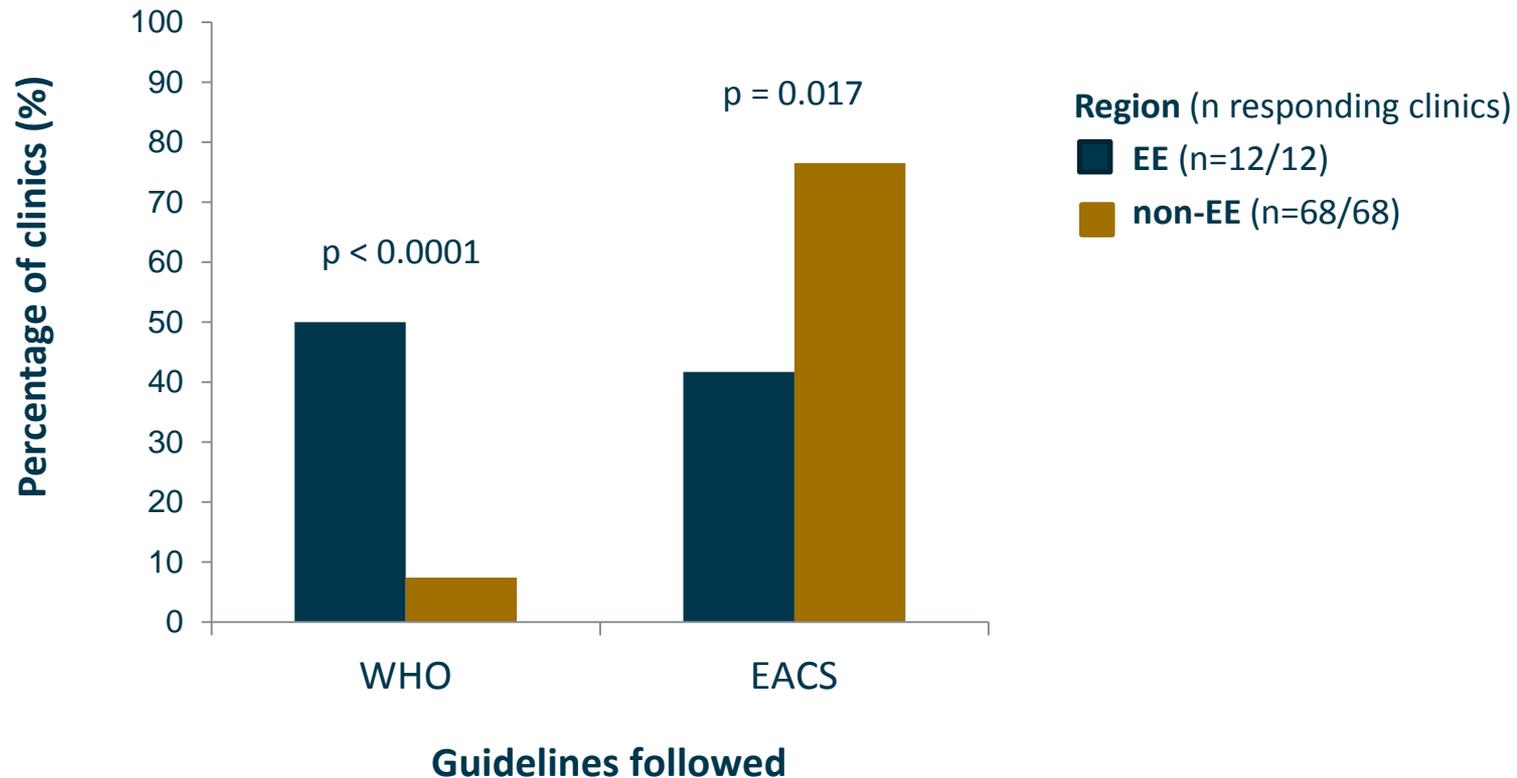
- 80/97 clinics
 - Total response rate 82.5%
- 12/15 in EE
 - Response rate 80.0%
- 68/82 in non-EE
 - Response rate 82.9%
- No differences in patient demographics in participating vs non-participating clinics

Participating clinics

A map of Europe is shown in the background. The landmasses are colored in a light tan or brown hue. Overlaid on this map are several countries, primarily in Western and Southern Europe, which are highlighted in a darker blue color. These highlighted areas represent the locations of participating clinics. The highlighted countries include the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, and parts of Germany and Poland.

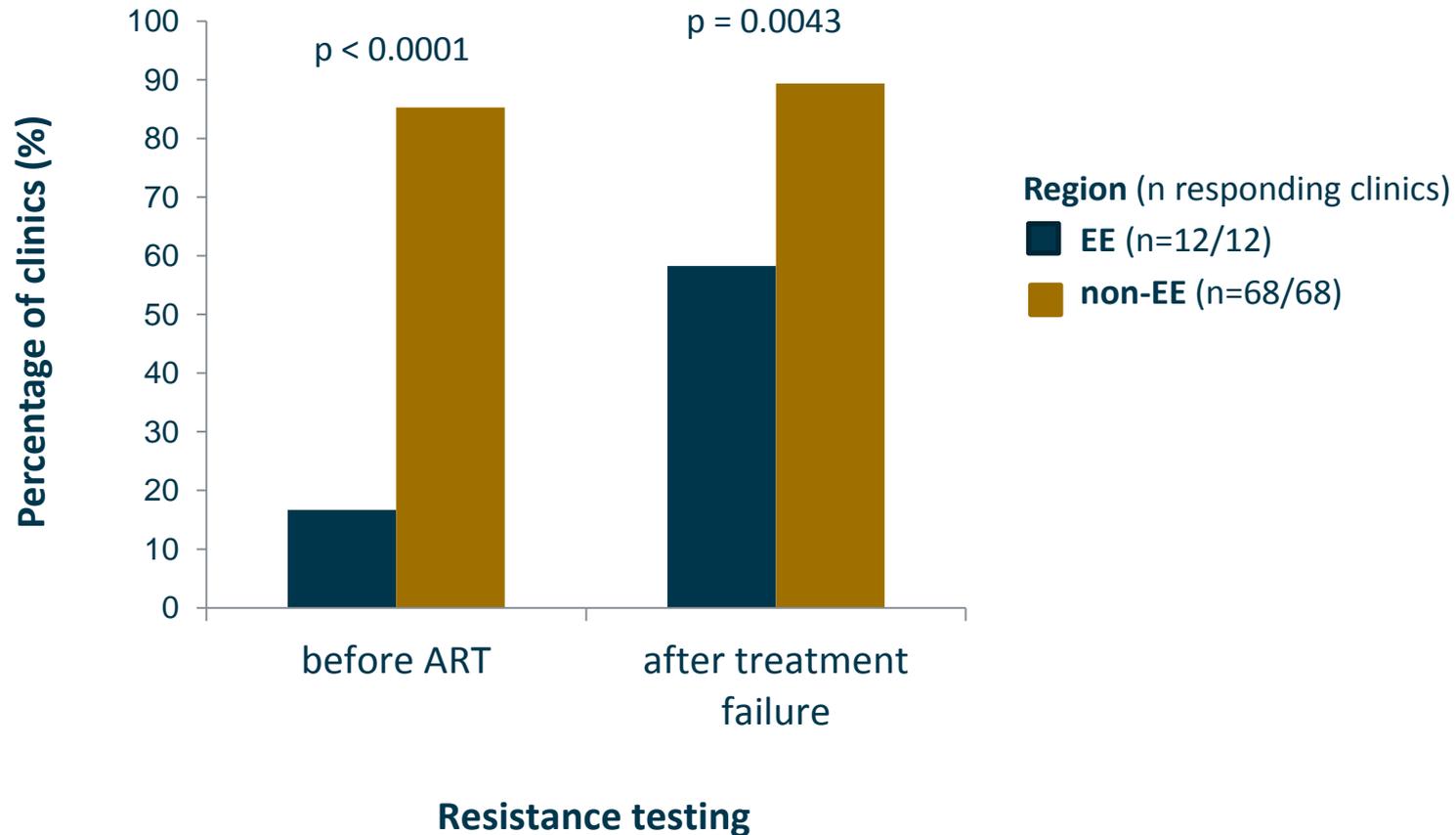
- 79/80 clinics urban location
- University-affiliated:
 - 1/12 in EE, 41/68 in non-EE
- HIV positive patients in care in participating clinics:
 - 30,000 in EE, 100,000 in non-EE

Regional differences in guidelines followed



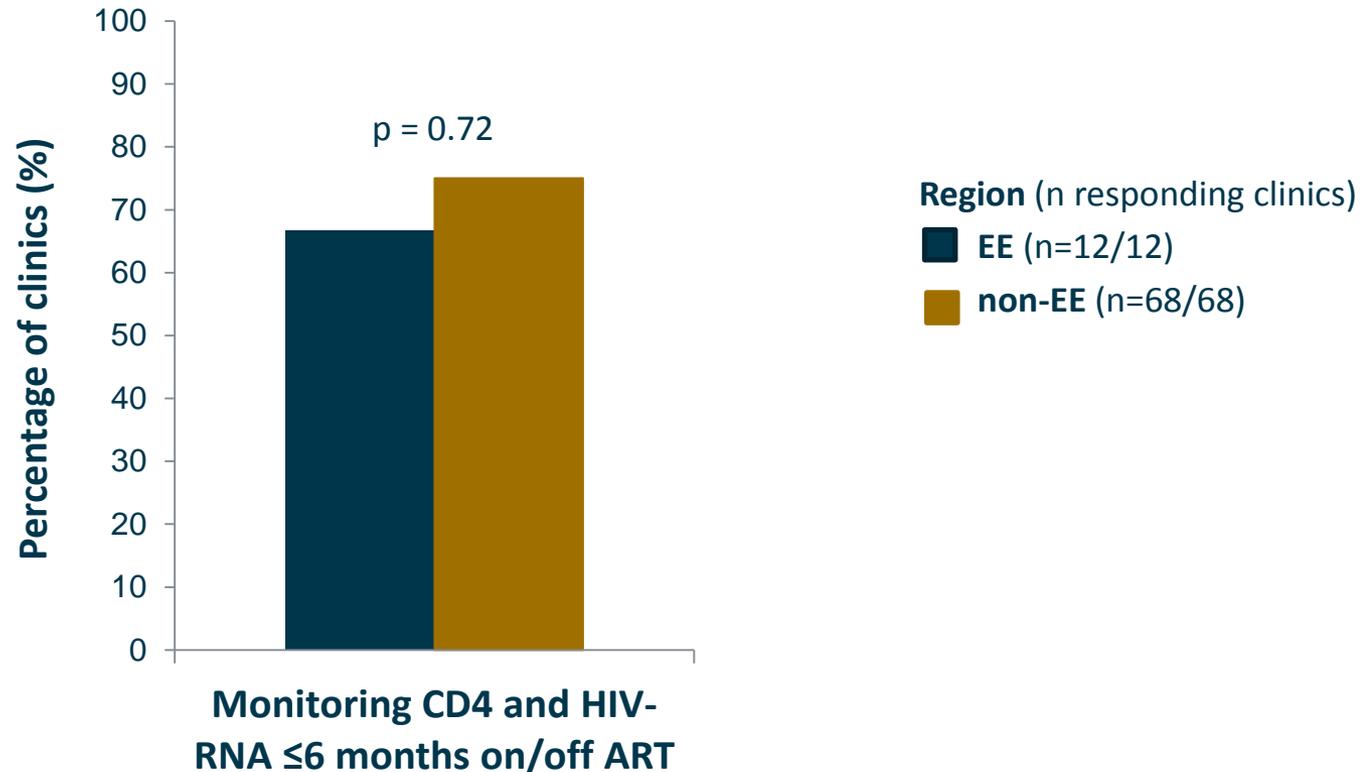
Based on the survey question: Does the clinic follow standard clinical guidelines for the treatment of people with HIV? If yes, which guidelines are used?

Regional differences in resistance testing



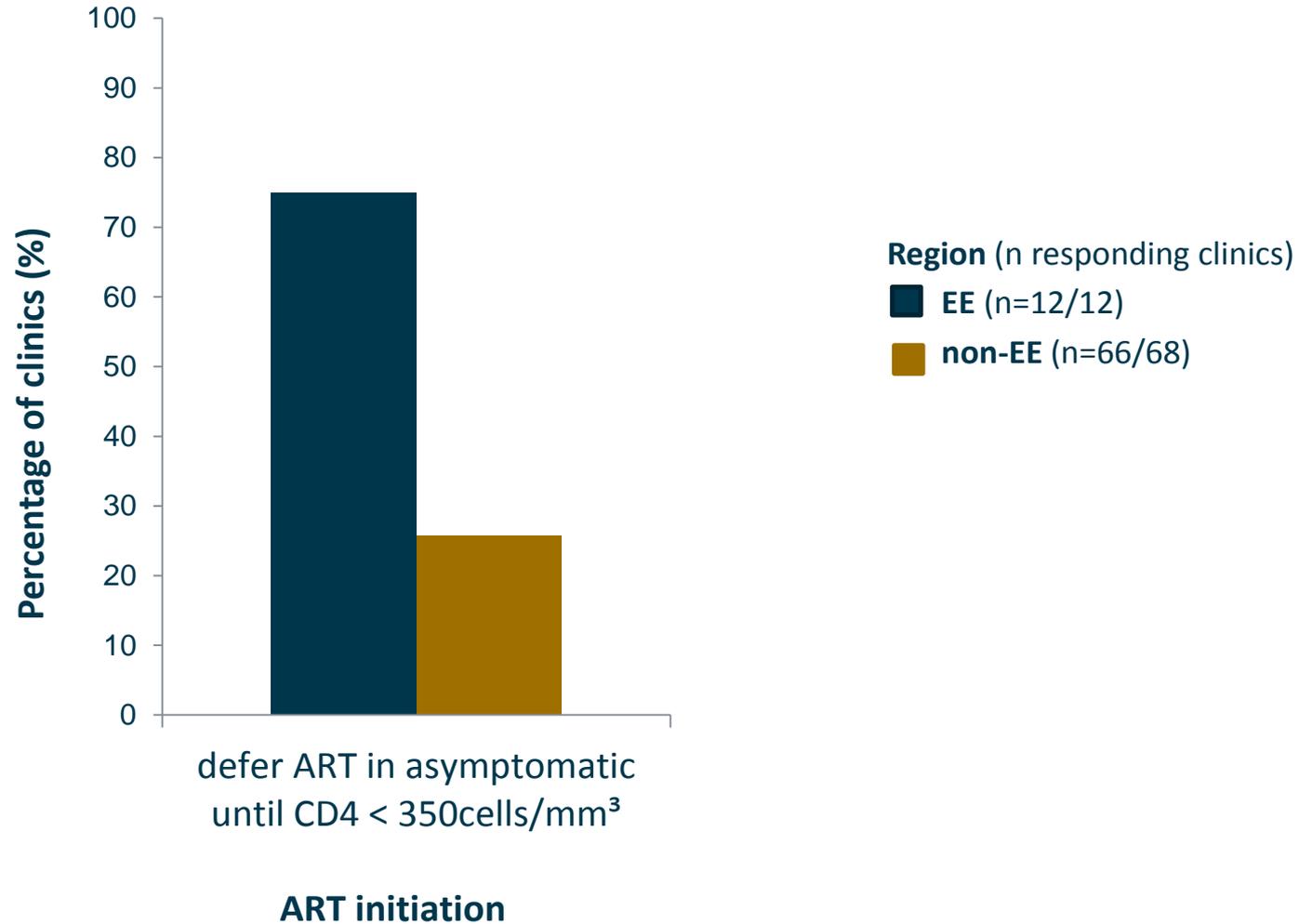
Based on the survey question: Is resistance testing performed before initiating ART? When HIV-positive patients taking ART need to change regimens because of treatment failure, is it currently standard practice to perform resistance testing to guide decision-making about the next regimen?

Frequency of monitoring of CD4 and HIV-RNA



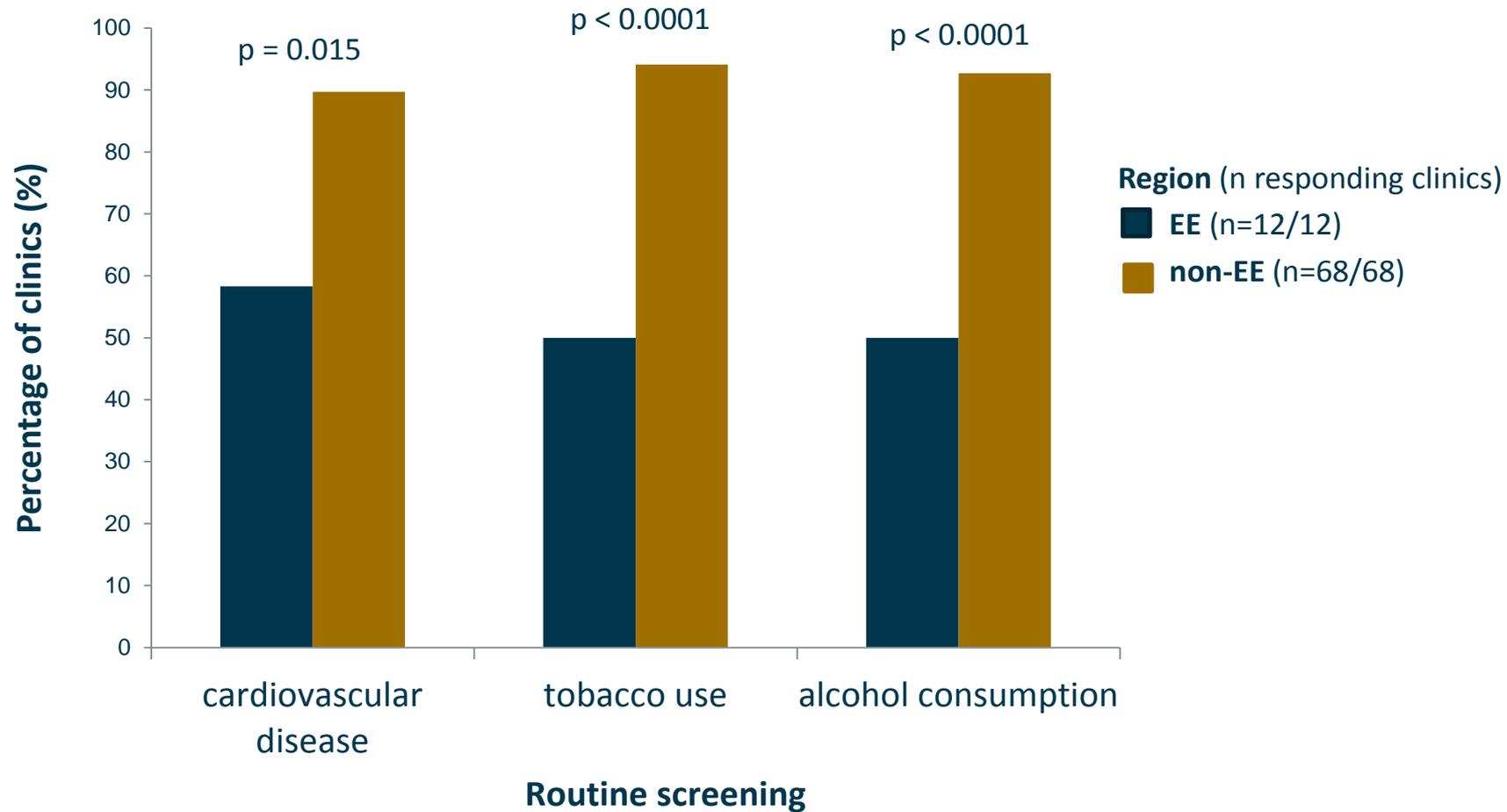
Based on the survey question: How often does the clinic request CD4 cell count/viral load testing for HIV-positive patients who are not clinically eligible for ART? How often does the clinic request CD4 cell count/viral load testing for HIV-positive patients who have initiated ART?

Regional differences in initiation of ART



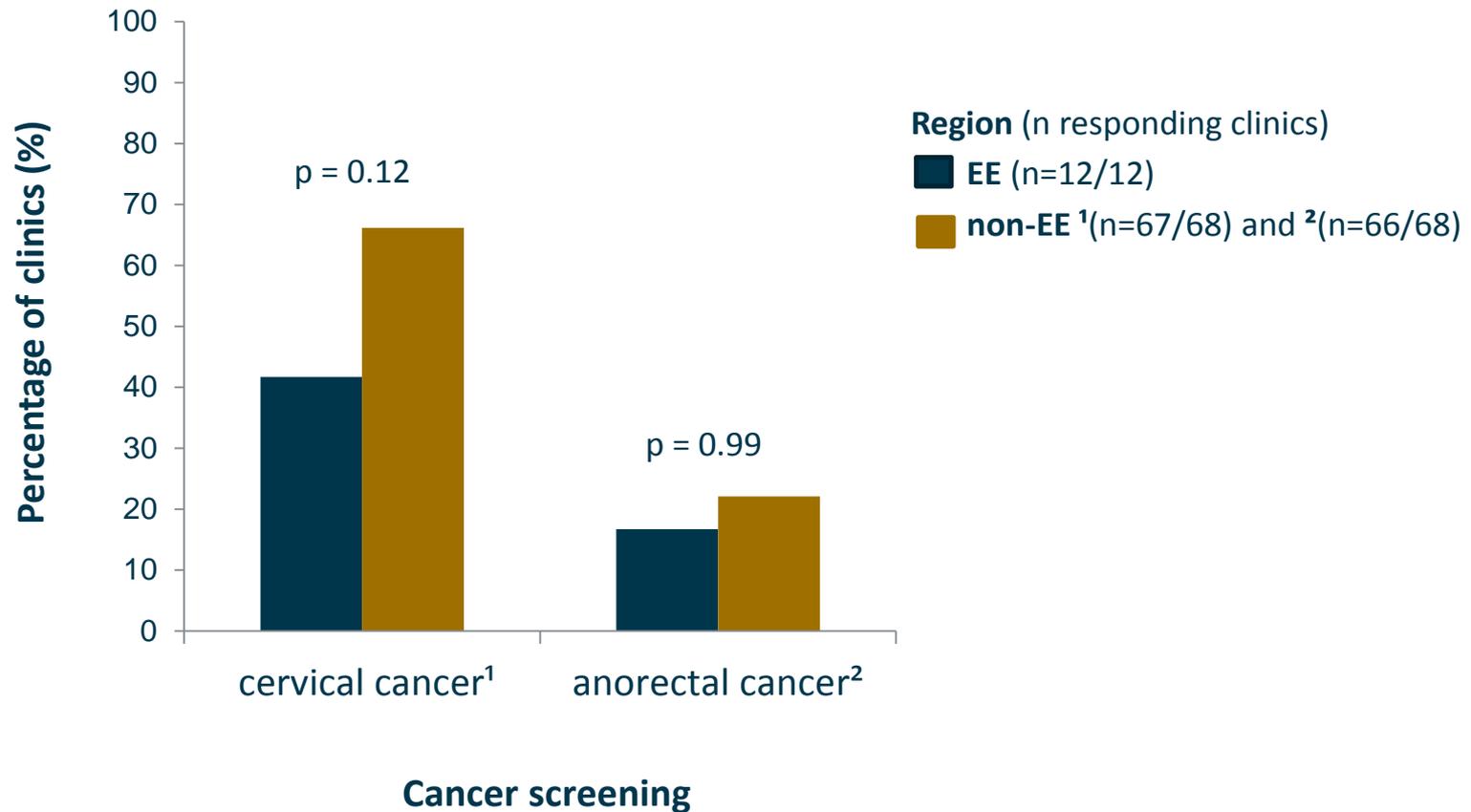
Based on the survey question: When do antiretroviral treatment-naïve patients, who have been followed in the clinic for at least 3 months (i.e. excluding late presenters), generally start ART?

Regional differences in routine screening



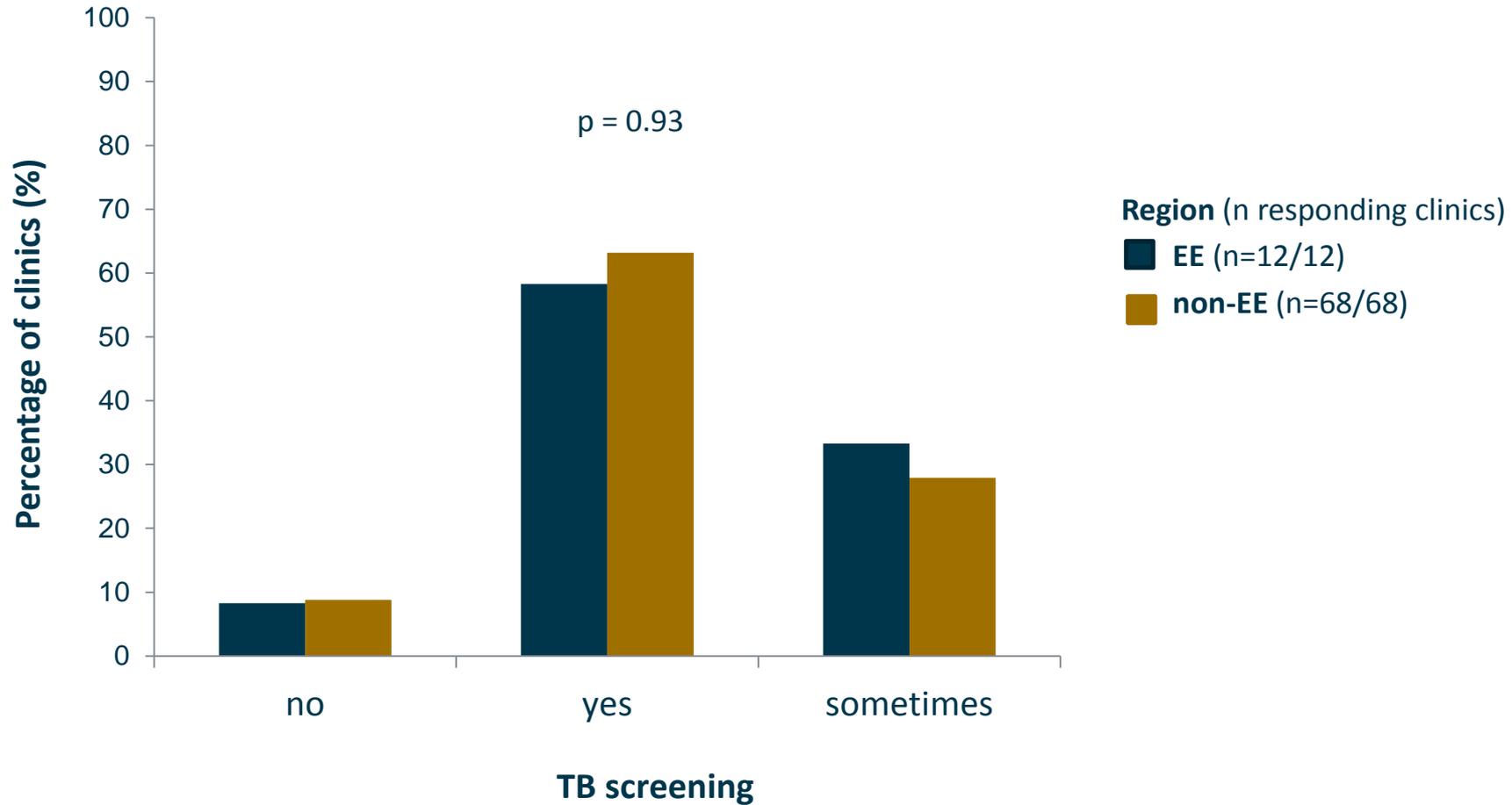
Based on the survey question: Does the clinic routinely perform the following types of screening for HIV-positive patients?

Regional differences in cancer screening



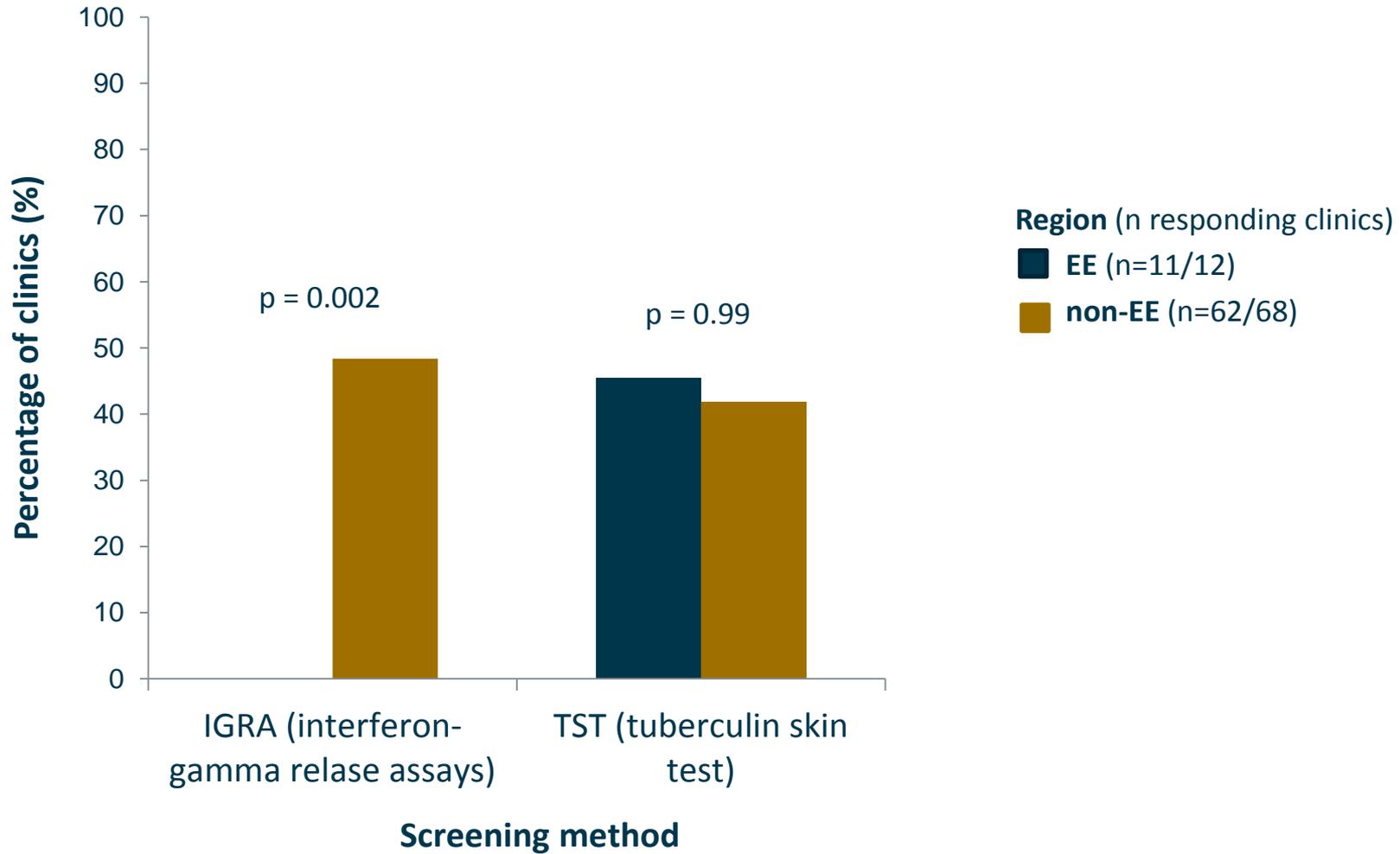
Based on the survey questions: Does the clinic routinely perform: ¹Screening for cervical cancer: cervical smear *and* gynaecological exam. ²Screening for anorectal cancer: anal pap *and* anorectal exam.

Regional differences in TB screening



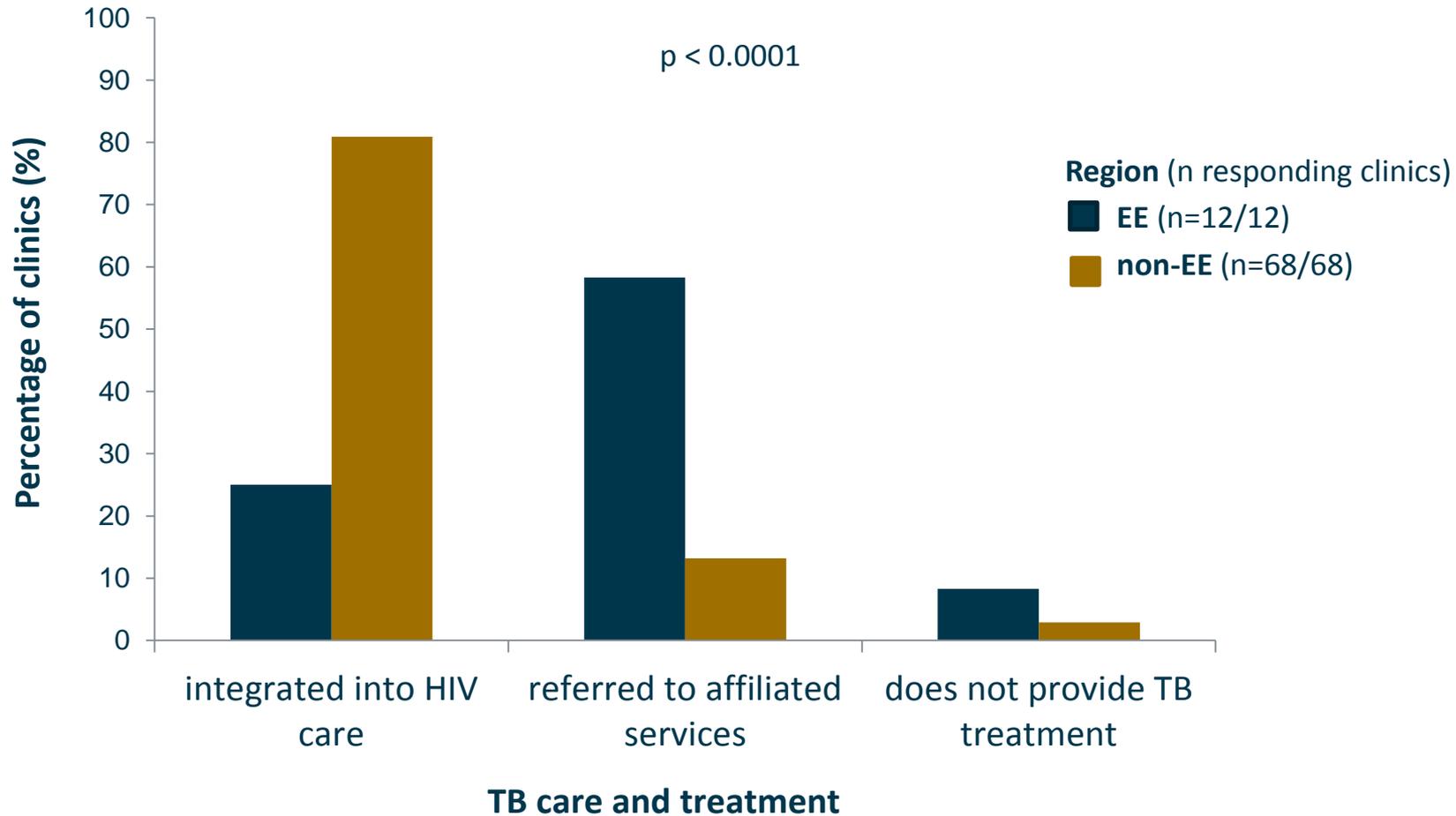
Based on the survey questions: Does the clinic screen HIV-positive individuals for tuberculosis?

Regional differences in TB screening method



Based on the survey questions: If the clinic screens HIV-positive individuals for tuberculosis, please indicate which method

Regional differences in integrated TB and HIV care



Based on the survey question: Does the clinic provide TB treatment for HIV patients diagnosed with TB?

Limitations

- Self-reported questionnaire
- English language
 - Interpretation of questions
- Limited number of clinics, especially in EE
- EuroSIDA clinics not necessarily representative of HIV management in all of Europe
- Possible bias: alter responses in a direction perceived to be more correct/adherent to guidelines

Summary

- Compared with non-EE clinics, clinics in EE reported:
 - Deferral of ART initiation until CD4 < 350 cells/mm³
 - Significantly less resistance testing before ART initiation and after treatment failure
 - Significantly less screening for cardiovascular disease
 - Significantly less screening for tobacco use and alcohol use

Summary

- Compared with non-EE clinics, clinics in EE reported:
 - Similar proportion of clinics performing TB screening, in spite of higher TB prevalence in EE
 - Poor integration of HIV and TB care

Summary

- Other findings:
 - Regional differences in guidelines followed
 - Poor over-all screening for cervical cancer, no significant regional differences
 - Poor over-all screening for anorectal cancer, no significant regional differences
 - Data about hepatitis screening previously reported¹

Regional differences in hepatitis testing, vaccination and treatment in the EuroSIDA study.

See poster at: <http://www.cphiv.dk/Ongoing-Studies/EuroSIDA/Presentations>

Conclusion

- Marked regional differences in self-reported HIV management across Europe

Future directions

- Investigate clinical implications of regional differences in HIV management
- Identify opportunities to reduce apparent regional disparities

The EuroSIDA Study Group

Argentina: (M Losso), M Kundro, Hospital JM Ramos Mejia, Buenos Aires. **Austria:** (N Vetter), Pulmologisches Zentrum der Stadt Wien, Vienna; R Zangerle, Medical University Innsbruck, Innsbruck. **Belarus:** (I Karpov), A Vassilenko, Belarus State Medical University, Minsk, VM Mitsura, Gomel State Medical University, Gomel; D Paduto, Regional AIDS Centre, Svetlogorsk. **Belgium:** (N Clumeck), S De Wit, M Delforge, Saint-Pierre Hospital, Brussels; E Florence, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp; L Vandekerckhove, University Ziekenhuis Gent, Gent. **Bosnia-Herzegovina:** (V Hadziosmanovic), Klinicki Centar Univerziteta Sarajevo, Sarajevo. **Bulgaria:** (K Kostov), Infectious Diseases Hospital, Sofia. **Croatia:** (J Begovac), University Hospital of Infectious Diseases, Zagreb. **Czech Republic:** (L Machala), D Jilich, Faculty Hospital Bulovka, Prague; D Sedlacek, Charles University Hospital, Pilsen. **Denmark:** (J Nielsen), G Kronborg, T Benfield, M Larsen, Hvidovre Hospital, Copenhagen; J Gerstoft, T Katzenstein, A-B E Hansen, P Skinhøj, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen; C Pedersen, Odense University Hospital, Odense; L Ostergaard, Skejby Hospital, Aarhus, U B Dragsted, Roskilde Hospital, Roskilde; L N Nielsen, Hillerød Hospital, Hillerød. **Estonia:** (K Zilmer), West-Tallinn Central Hospital, Tallinn; Jelena Smidt, Nakkusosakond Sisekliinik, Kõhla-Järve. **Finland:** (M Ristola), Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki. **France:** (C Katlama), Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris; J-P Viard, Hôtel-Dieu, Paris; P-M Girard, Hospital Saint-Antoine, Paris; P Vanhems, University Claude Bernard, Lyon; C Pradier, Hôpital de l'Archet, Nice; F Dabis, D Neau, Unité INSERM, Bordeaux, C Duvivier, Hôpital Necker-Enfants Malades, Paris. **Germany:** (J Rockstroh), Universitäts Klinik Bonn; R Schmidt, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover; J van Lunzen, O Degen, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Infectious Diseases Unit, Hamburg; HJ Stellbrink, IPM Study Center, Hamburg; C Stefan, JW Goethe University Hospital, Frankfurt; J Bogner, Medizinische Poliklinik, Munich; G. Fätkenheuer, Universität Köln, Cologne. **Georgia:** (N Chkhartishvili) Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Center, Tbilisi. **Greece:** (J Kosmidis), P Gargalianos, G Xylomenos, J Perdios, Athens General Hospital; H Sambatakou, Ippokraton General Hospital, Athens. **Hungary:** (D Banhegyi), Szent László Hospital, Budapest. **Iceland:** (M Gottfredsson), Landspítali University Hospital, Reykjavík. **Ireland:** (F Mulcahy), St. James's Hospital, Dublin. **Israel:** (I Yust), D Turner, M Burke, Ichilov Hospital, Tel Aviv; E Shahar, G Hassoun, Rambam Medical Center, Haifa; H Elinav, M Haouzi, Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem; ZM Sthoeger, AIDS Center (Neve Or), Jerusalem. **Italy:** (A D'Arminio Monforte), Istituto Di Clinica Malattie Infettive e Tropicale, Milan; R Esposito, I Mazeu, C Mussini, Università Modena, Modena; R Pristera, Ospedale Generale Regionale, Bolzano; F Mazzotta, A Gabbuti, Ospedale S Maria Annunziata, Firenze; V Vullo, M Lichtner, University di Roma la Sapienza, Rome; M Zaccarelli, A Antinori, R Acinapura, G D'Offizi, Istituto Nazionale Malattie Infettive Lazzaro Spallanzani, Rome; A Lazzarin, A Castagna, N Gianotti, Ospedale San Raffaele, Milan; M Galli, A Ridolfo, Osp. L. Sacco, Milan. **Latvia:** (B Rozentale), Infectology Centre of Latvia, Riga. **Lithuania:** V Uzdaviniene, Lithuanian AIDS Centre, Vilnius. **Luxembourg:** (T Staub), R Hemmer, Centre Hospitalier, Luxembourg. **Netherlands:** (P Reiss), Academisch Medisch Centrum bij de Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam. **Norway:** (V Ormaasen), A Maeland, J Bruun, Ullevål Hospital, Oslo. **Poland:** (B Knysz), J Gasiorowski, M Inglot, Medical University, Wrocław; A Horban, E Bakowska, Centrum Diagnostyki i Terapii AIDS, Warsaw; A Grzeszczuk, R Flisiak, Medical University, Białystok; M Parczewski, M Pynka, K Maciejewska, Medical University, Szczecin; M Beniowski, E Mularska, Osrodek Diagnostyki i Terapii AIDS, Chorzow; T Smiatacz, Medical University, Gdansk; E Jablonowska, E Malolepsza, K Wojcik, Wojewodzki Szpital Specjalistyczny, Lodz; I Mozer-Lisewska, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan. **Portugal:** (M Doroana), L Caldeira, Hospital Santa Maria, Lisbon; K Mansinho, Hospital de Egas Moniz, Lisbon; F Maltez, Hospital Curry Cabral, Lisbon. **Romania:** (R Radoi), C Oprea, Spitalul de Boli Infectioase si Tropicale: Dr. Victor Babes, Bucarest. **Russia:** (A Rakhmanova), Medical Academy Botkin Hospital, St Petersburg; A Rakhmanova, St Petersburg AIDS Centre, St Peterburg; T Trofimora, Novgorod Centre for AIDS, Novgorod, I Khromova, Centre for HIV/AIDS & and Infectious Diseases, Kaliningrad; E Kuzovatova, Nizhny Novgorod Scientific and Research Institute, Nizhny Novgorod. **Serbia:** (D Jevtic), The Institute for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Belgrade. **Slovakia:** A Shunnar, D Staneková, Dérer Hospital, Bratislava. **Slovenia:** (J Tomazic), University Clinical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana. **Spain:** (J González-Lahoz) S Moreno, J. M. Rodriguez, Hospital Ramon y Cajal, Madrid; B Clotet, A Jou, R Paredes, C Tural, J Puig, I Bravo, Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona; JM Gatell, JM Miró, Hospital Clinic Universitari de Barcelona, Barcelona; P Domingo, M Gutierrez, G Mateo, MA Sambeat, Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona; JM Laporte, Hospital Universitario de Alava, Vitoria-Gasteiz. **Sweden:** (A Blaxhult), Venhaelsan-Sodersjukhuset, Stockholm; L Flamholc, Malmö University Hospital, Malmö, A Thalme, A Sonnerborg, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm. **Switzerland:** (B Ledergerber), R Weber, University Hospital, Zürich; M Cavassini, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne; A Calmy, Hospital Cantonal Universitaire de Geneve, Geneve; H Furrer, Inselspital Bern, Bern; M Battegay, L Elzi, University Hospital Basel; P Schmid, Kantonsspital, St. Gallen. **Ukraine:** (E Kravchenko), N Chentsova, Kiev Centre for AIDS, Kiev; V Frolov, G Kutsyna, I Baskakov, Luhansk State Medical University, Luhansk; S Servitskiy, Odessa Region AIDS Center, Odessa; A Kuznetsova, Kharkov State Medical University, Kharkov; G Kyselyova, Crimean Republican AIDS centre, Simferopol. **United Kingdom:** (B Gazzard), St. Stephen's Clinic, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London; AM Johnson, E Simons, S Edwards, Mortimer Market Centre, London; A Phillips, MA Johnson, A Mocroft, Royal Free and University College Medical School, London (Royal Free Campus); C Orkin, Royal London Hospital, London; J Weber, G Scullard, Imperial College School of Medicine at St. Mary's, London; M Fisher, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton; C Leen, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. **The following centers have previously contributed data to EuroSIDA:** Bernhard Nocht Institut für Tropenmedizin, Hamburg, Germany; 1st I.K.A Hospital of Athens, Athens, Greece; Ospedale Riuniti, Divisione Malattie Infettive, Bergamo, Italy; Ospedale Cotugno, III Divisione Malattie Infettive, Napoli, Italy; Hospital Carlos III, Departamento de Enfermedades Infecciosas, Madrid, Spain;

EuroSIDA Steering Committee: J Gatell, B Gazzard, A Horban, I Karpov, B Ledergerber, M Losso, A d'Arminio Monforte, C Pedersen, A Rakhmanova, M Ristola, A Phillips, P Reiss, J Lundgren, J Rockstroh, S De Wit. **Chair:** J Rockstroh. **Vice-chair:** S De Wit. **Study Co-leads:** A Mocroft, O Kirk

EuroSIDA Representatives to EuroCoord: O Kirk, A Mocroft, J Grarup, P Reiss, A Cozzi-Lepri, R Thiebaut, J Rockstroh, D Burger, R Paredes, L Peters, EuroSIDA staff

Coordinating Centre Staff: D Podlekareva, L Peters, JE Nielsen, C Matthews, AH Fischer, A Bojesen, D Raben, D Kristensen, K Grønberg Laut, JF Larsen. **Statistical Staff:** A Mocroft, A Phillips, A Cozzi-Lepri, D Grint, L Shepherd, A Schultze

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