

(581) - The First Decade Of HAART: Numbers And Characteristics Of Patients Starting HAART In Large Treatment Programmes In Sub-Saharan Africa

Boulle, Andrew

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

Co-authors:

Dabis, Francois
Sidle, John
Phiri, Sam
McPhail, Patrick
Bangsberg, David
Wood, Robin
Schechter, Mauro
Egger, Matthias

Abstract:

Background: Scaling up of HAART has resulted in a changing profile of patients in 7 large centres from sub-Saharan Africa who participate in the ART-LINC collaboration.

Methods: Advanced stage was defined as WHO stage III or IV, or CDC stage C. We present medians, interquartile ranges (IQR) and percentages as well as the percentage of missing data. Denominators for percentages were all patients with information on the characteristic or, for missing values, all patients.

Results: 22,282 patients aged 16 years or older who started HAART in the period January 2001 to December 2005 were included. The number of patients enrolled per year increased from 255 in 2001 to 10,659 in 2005. Median age remained relative constant at 35-36 years, whilst the proportion of women ranged between 58% and 65%. Baseline CD4 count increased progressively from a median of 55 cells/ul in 2001 to 113 in 2005, together with a drop in the proportion of patients with advanced disease from 94% to 61%. Median Haemoglobin ranged between 10.2 - 10.7 g/dl over the 5-year period. The completeness of data improved over time – in 2002 data on baseline CD4 counts was missing for half the patients, whilst in 2005 this had reduced to 15%.

Conclusions: The number of patients receiving HAART in 7 public clinics in sub-Saharan Africa increased substantially since 2001, reflecting the scale up of HAART in the region. In recent years the patient spectrum shifted towards less advanced disease. Also, despite increasing number of patients, completeness of data improved over time, reflecting both the increased availability of CD4 count testing and the maturing of information systems. The centres included in this analysis are representative of large public sector programmes in the region, and provide a valuable window on the changing profile of enrolled patients over time.