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Abstracts

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Late presenters among persons with a new HIV diagnosis in Kyiv, Ukraine

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Background: In Ukraine, among 2892 new diagnosed cases of HIV-infection reported in January and February, 2019, 1498 (48%) were persons diagnosed having AIDS-defining condition. In general, late presentation is an important issue for healthcare and is associated with increased HIV-related morbidity and mortality, shorter survival, poor response to treatment, increased healthcare costs and increased rates of HIV transmission. The aim of the study was to analyze the characteristics of patients who were diagnosed late among newly diagnosed HIV-positive persons in Kyiv, Ukraine, in January-February, 2019.

Materials & Methods: We analysed data from records of newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals who presented with with CD4 \leq 200 cells/ μ L or AIDS (regardless of the CD4 cell count) defined as patients with advanced HIV disease (AHD) in Kyiv City HIV Centre in January-February, 2019. Descriptive analysis was performed to assess the prevalence and characteristics of late presenters.

Results: The study included 139 patients (53 women - 38.1%, and 86 men - 61.9%) diagnosed with HIV infection at the time of AHD. The median age was 43,2 (IQR 24-78). 38 patients (27.3%) acquired HIV by injection drug use, 12 (8.6%) by homosexual and 89 (64.0%) by heterosexual contact. The most common AIDS defining conditions included: Pneumocystis pneumonia (in 60 patients - 43.2%), tuberculosis (in 79 - 56.8%), CNS toxoplasmosis (in 41 - 29.5%), oesophageal candidiasis (20 - 14.4%), chronic herpes simplex infection (in 58 - 41.7%), cytomegalovirus retinitis or meningoencephalitis (26 - 18.7%) and progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (4 - 2.9%). The median CD4 count was 45.4 (IQR 1-196) cells/ μ L. It was noted that 101 (72.7%) sought medical care during last 5 years, 88 (63.3%) were not offered an HIV test and 13 (9.4%) did not agree to do it before their condition became critical. 8 patients (5.7%) died within 2 months after being diagnosed with HIV. 128 patients (92.1%) started ART.

Conclusion: The results shows the rates of AIDS-defining conditions reported in newly diagnosed HIV-infected individuals in Kyiv in January-February, 2019. Pneumocystis pneumonia, tuberculosis, CNS toxoplasmosis, oesophageal candidiasis and cytomegalovirus retinitis or meningoencephalitis are reported among the most common opportunistic infections. The study also highlights the need of intensification of HIV testing strategy, showing that 63.3% of patients were not offered HIV test while seeking medical care within 5 years before being diagnosed with advanced HIV disease.