

FEATURES OF HIV INFECTION IN PATIENTS OLDER THAN 55 YEARS IN LVIV REGION OF UKRAINE

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Background

The total number of patients in the Lviv Regional AIDS Center is 3106. 965 patients of total number (31,1%) are at the fourth clinical stage. Only 58 patients (1,9%) are older than 55 years. The problem of HIV among elderly people is new to Ukraine. But its importance is clear, as we face aging with HIV. The aim of the research was to study the characteristics of HIV among elderly people.

Methods

We analyzed the features of epidemic history, clinical characteristics, results of the ELISA/verification tests, viral load, CD4 cells, the presence of opportunistic infections in HIV-infected patients aged over 55, who were under observation in the Lviv Regional AIDS Center.

Results

58 patients older than 55 years, were the subject of the study, 41 (70.7%) men and 17 (29.3%) women. 45 persons (77,6%) were infected with HIV through sexual contact, and 13 persons (23,3%) through drug injections. 38 patients (65,5%) were aged between 55-60 years, and 20 patients (34,5%) were more than 60 years old on time of HIV diagnostics. The average time interval between the moment of infection and the registration at the AIDS center was 8,5 years. At the moment of registration, 23 patients (39,7%) were at the first clinical stage, 5 (8,6%) at the second clinical stage, 8 (13,8%) at the third clinical stage, and 23 (39,7%) were at the fourth clinical stage (AIDS). During the period of the clinical observation in the AIDS center the diagnosis was changed for 4 patients. Opportunistic infections at the moment of taking under clinical observation to the AIDS Center were diagnosed in 30 (51,7%). In 19 patients (63,3%) tuberculosis was diagnosed. 47 patients (81,0%) are receiving antiretroviral therapy. In the 7 cases (14,9%) antiretroviral therapy scheme was changed due to the side effects (5 cases, 8,6%) and virological inefficiency (2 cases, 3,5%). Viral load was undetectable in 21 patients (44,7%) receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Conclusions

Most patients aged over 55 years in the Lviv region of Ukraine were male (70.7%), infected through sexual contact (77.6%). The average duration of infection before applying to the AIDS Center was 8,5 years. The feature of the epidemic is late detection of HIV infection, when clinical manifestations of the disease are already present. In patients aged over 55 years the feature of HIV infection is a combination of the HIV progression with the development of age-related changes in the health status (hypertension, coronary heart disease, type II diabetes, osteoporosis). This findings require development of new approaches to improve the quality of services to this category of patients.