



HIV-INFECTED IMMIGRANTS ARE MORE OFTEN YOUNG, WOMEN AND WITH POOR AWARENESS OF HIV DISEASE

Authors: Rita Murri¹, Simone Marcotullio², Piergiorgio Lupoli³, Filippo von Schloesser²

¹Catholic University of Rome, ²Nadir Onlus Foundation, ³Edge Consulting

For further information please send an e-mail to commenti@posit-nadir.org or visit the following website www.posit-nadir.org

Abstract

- Rate of immigrants within the HIV-infected population is increasing over time.
- Characteristics of immigrant population may influence clinical management.
- Objective of this study was to identify demographic, social or psychological characteristics of HIV-infected immigrants living in Italy.

Methods

- 30 Italian physicians were anonymously asked to participate into the survey (POSIT - Popolazione Sieropositiva Italiana) in 2008. This survey was made by Edge Consulting in cooperation with Nadir Foundation and was supported by an unrestricted educational grant by Abbott Italy.
- Each physician answered items of about 40 patients
- Physicians were enrolled in 30 Italian Clinical Centers
- Time for answering to survey: 1 month
- Young people were defined for <38-years-old.
- Items of questionnaire investigate demographic, social, clinical and lifestyle characteristics (smoke, alcohol, diet, leisure and physical activities, travels).
- Items on awareness and acceptance of the HIV disease, level of psychological support, depression, anxiety, psychological stability, adherence, self-discontinuation of antiretroviral therapy were also included

Results

CHARACTERISTICS OF ENROLLED PATIENTS (n=1210)

Age, mean, years (SD)	42 (10)
Females (%)	34
MSM (%)	27
<8 yrs education (%)	60
Live alone (%)	25
Unemployed (%)	29
Immigrants (%)	8.8
Smokers (%)	32
Physical activity (%)	26.3
Travels (%)	9
Balanced diet (%)	66.7
Alcohol use (%)	39.4

DETERMINANTS OF BEING IMMIGRANT

As perceived by the physicians - Univariable analysis -

	Immigrants	Not immigrants	p
Age, yrs, mean (SD)	36.9 (9.4)	44.2 (10.4)	<0.001
Females	56.1%	31.9%	<0.001
Unemployed	44.6%	27.4%	<0.001
<8 years formal school	84.9%	57.5%	<0.001
Smokers	16.1%	33.1%	0.001
Desiring pregnancy	24.7%	6.9%	<0.001
Informing family of HIV status	24%	39%	0.005
Depressed	12.5%	25.1%	0.008
Low awareness HIV disease	57.1%	28.1%	<0.001
Suboptimal adherence	34.3%	47.1%	0.04

DETERMINANTS OF BEING IMMIGRANTS

As perceived by physicians - Multivariate analysis

	HR	95% CI	p
Age (for each year more)	0.92	0.89-0.96	<0.001
Females	2.75	1.14-6.62	0.02
<8 yrs formal school	4.23	1.63-11.0	0.003
Desiring pregnancy	2.59	1.00-6.69	0.05
Poor awareness of HIV disease	3.03	1.37-6.71	0.006
Optimal adherence	2.45	1.08-5.55	0.03

Conclusion

- HIV-infected immigrants in Italy are young and less educated.
- HIV-infected women are prevalent in the immigrant population and they often plan a pregnancy.
- The HIV-infected immigrant population has a low degree of awareness of HIV disease.
- The frequent desire of pregnancy and poor education should be taken into account in the context of patient-physician relationship and should drive cART choice

Survey
made by



In collaboration
with

