

POSSIBILITY FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR COUNSELING AND TESTING FOR EARLY DIAGNOSES OF HIV INFECTION IN ARMENIA

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Objectives:

To evaluate the importance of HIV TC in HIV early detection.

Methods:

Some data of conducted HIV tests and of HIV patients diagnosed in 2007-2010 were studied. Patients were divided into two groups: I - CD4+<350, II - CD4+>350.

Results:

279,090 people underwent HIV testing, whereof 542 received HIV diagnosis. Though the increase in HIV testing is insignificant, (2007 - 64,242, 2010 - 71,882), the number of detected cases increased - 109 and 148 respectively.

Year	HIV tested	HIV cases
2007	64242	109
2008	71510	136
2009	71456	149
2010	71882	148

70.5% of diagnosed people underwent CD4 tests. As a result, 59% made up I group, 41% - II group. Comparison shows that the ratio practically has not changed (57% in 2007 and 61% in 2010 belonged to I group).

First group were those mostly tested according to clinical presentations - 48%, patients' partners - 14%, HIV positive returnees - 12%, PWID - 8%.

I group	
Client-initiated	48%
Patients' partners	14%
HIV positive returnees	12%
PWID	8%
Other	18%

Second group were those undergone client-initiated testing - 32%, patients' partners - 20%, pregnant women - 14%, PWID - 8%, prisoners - 4%, etc.

II group	
Client-initiated	32%
Patients' partners	20%
Pregnant women	14%
PWID	8%
Prisoners	4%
Other	22%

84% of 128 patients tested due to their clinical presentations belonged to I group.

Conclusions:

HIV in Armenia is mostly diagnosed at late stages. Increase in HIV testing has not resulted in increase in HIV early detection, because PLHIV present lately to health care facilities. The study shows that HIV at early stages is detected mostly in clients initiating HIV testing, pregnant women, prisoners. It is necessary to promote client-initiated TC and to motivate, through outreach workers, the key populations at higher risk to use HIV TC services.

