Non-antiretroviral treatment among patients on antiretroviral therapy. Why bother?

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

• Co-morbidities and infectious disease among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHWA) means many patients use a range of other medicines with their antiretroviral treatment (ART)
• This use may affect the adherence and effectiveness of ART due to drug-drug interactions and adverse events
• Therefore, we aimed to evaluate the use of non-ART medicines among PLHWA.

METHODS

Non-concurrent prospective cohort of 440 patients initiating ART between Jan/14 and Dec/15 at a referral service in southeast, Brazil
Sociodemographic, clinical and behavioral data obtained through patients’ clinical chart
12 months of follow-up
Oral and parenteral prescription medicines prescribed to patients
Active agents classified by the ATC-DDD system
Proportion of patients receiving 5 or more non-ART agents in the follow-up period. Associated factors evaluated by multivariate logistic regression

RESULTS

• The majority (86.8%) of patients were prescribed at least one non-ART medicine
• Median of 4 non-ART medicine per patient
• 164 different agents and 2319 prescriptions

REFERENCES


DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

• As expected, non-ART use was common in this population
Almost half prescribed medicines were anti-infectives, used as prophylaxis or treatment
Advanced immunosuppression and late ART initiation in this population
• Agents acting in the nervous system represented the second most used drugs and ¼ of the population had a mental health diagnosis
The use of five or more medicines was associated with increased adverse drug reactions and non-adherence to ART
Raise concerns about its impacts on clinical outcomes
• With longer life expectancy, use of medicines for co-morbidities is expected to increase, especially among older people and woman.

Figure 1. Distribution of patients’ characteristics (%) Belo Horizonte, 2015 (N=440)

Figure 2. Distribution of prescriptions according to the Anatomical and Therapeutical Class (%). Belo Horizonte, 2015 (N=2319)

Figure 3. Top 10 prescribed agents. Belo Horizonte, 2015 (N=2319)

High proportion of patients (41.8%, n=184) used 5+ other medicines
Factors associated with using 5+ non-ART medicines are shown in figure 4

Figure 4. Factors associated with using five or more non-ART medicines during the follow-up. Belo Horizonte, 2015 (N=440)