

ADVERSE EVENTS EXPERIENCED BY PLHIV ON TESTOSTERONE OR OTHER ANDROGEN ANABOLIC STEROIDS: DATA FROM PUSH AUDIT

Authors:

Eu B.¹, Dunn M², Lee K³, Griffiths S⁴, Dawe J⁵, Soo C⁶, Bloch M^{7,11}, Baker D⁸, Bisshop F⁹, Wozencroft B¹⁰, Stoove M⁴

¹Prahran Market Clinic

²Deakin University

³Monash University

⁴University of Melbourne

⁵Burnet Institute

⁶Hobart Place General Practice

⁷University of NSW

⁸East Sydney Doctors

⁹Holdsworth House Brisbane

¹⁰View St Medical

¹¹Holdsworth House Sydney

Background:

Several studies report that approximately 10% of male PLHIV may be eventually prescribed testosterone replacement therapy. There are few data elucidating the expected adverse events (AEs) that this population experience on testosterone replacement therapy. There are no reported data on PLHIV who are using non-prescribed anabolic androgenic steroids (AAS). This study reports AEs in both populations based on PUSH audit data.

Method

An audit (PUSH) of approximately 350 male subjects of known HIV status across 7 GP sites in Australia, who either use prescribed or non-prescribed AAS, was conducted in the period May 2019-May 2021. Subject demographic profile, data on blood pressure (BP), liver function test (LFT) result, haemoglobin or haematocrit, renal function, and blood lipids results, were collected and analysed (*t*-test) between the different groups.

Results

Preliminary analyses show significant differences in LFT abnormalities between the HIV-positive and HIV-negative groups receiving prescribed testosterone ($p < 0.05$). There were no significant differences in BP, renal function, lipids or haemoglobin/haematocrit results between those groups. Within the HIV-positive group, those subjects receiving non-prescribed AAS presented significantly different LFT abnormalities and haemoglobin/haematocrit results compared to those subjects receiving prescribed testosterone ($p < 0.05$). Analysis of final data will be presented at the conference.

Conclusion

This is the first study providing clinical data comparing PLHIV who are receiving prescribed or non-prescribed testosterone and the AEs they experience. PLHIV on testosterone replacement should be monitored for expected AEs, especially abnormal liver function. PLHIV using non-prescribed AAS need to be identified and similarly-

monitored for liver function and other AEs. This study will aid clinicians in giving appropriate advice and monitoring PLHIV who are either on prescribed testosterone or use non-prescribed AAS.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None