

## **COSTS RELATED TO THE USE OF NON-ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICINES AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS.**

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### **Background:**

People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) often use several medicines other than antiretrovirals (ART) to treat co-morbidities and pathologies associated with HIV. Medicines constitute the main expenditure at the outpatient level and have a great impact on the cost of PLWHA care. Therefore, we aimed to evaluate the costs associated with use of non-ART medicines among HIV patients.

### **Methods:**

Non-concurrent prospective cohort of 440 patients who started ART between Jan/14 and Dec/15 at a referral service in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Prescription data was obtained through clinical charts for 12 months, considering all prescribed items were used by patients. Medicines were classified by the ATC-DDD system. Cost of non-ART was calculated considering the purchase price by the Ministry of Health and converted to US\$ using the 2016 purchasing power parity conversion factor.

### **Results:**

The total cost related to non-ART medicines was \$479,385.32, median cost per patient \$41.49 (Interquartile range 9.56-165.01). Among 2,535 prescriptions, 222 different active agents were identified. Most prescribed agents were antiinfectives for systemic use, accounting for 43.4% (n=1,100) of prescriptions and 88.9% (\$426,086.81) of the expenditure. Within this ATC group, antimycotics for systemic use was responsible for the higher expenditure (\$370,598.69), mainly due to amphotericin B, although it represented only 0.63% of prescriptions. Contrastingly, antibacterials for systemic use were the most prescribed medicines (28.2%), mainly sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim (11.9%) and azithromycin (5.9%), at a total cost of \$19,856.72. Agents acting on the nervous system were the second ATC group most prescribed (15.4%), of which psychoanaleptics accounted for 4.8% of prescriptions with a cost of \$1,343.12.

### **Conclusions:**

Expenditure on drugs used by people with HIV is significant, especially with antiinfectives for systemic use, which were also the most prescribed agents. Identify the class of medicines with the highest expenditure, besides the most prescribed medicines, help in the optimization of resources allocation.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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