

MUTUALLY REINFORCED CONCERNS ABOUT LONG-TERM USE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT BY PLHIV IN AUSTRALIA

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Background:

Positive Perspectives 2 (PP2) is an international survey of people living with HIV (PLHIV) across 25 countries (N=2,389 global, N=120 Australia) run by ViiV Healthcare which aimed to generate insights into unmet needs of PLHIV with respect to indicators of health related quality of life (QoL) and included attitudes to daily antiretroviral (ART) usage. HIV Futures 9 (HF9) is a cross sectional survey of Australian PLHIV (N=847) run by La Trobe University which aimed to better understand factors affecting QoL including the impact of daily ART.

Results from the PP2 Australian respondents were compared with HF 9 respondents with regard to results on attitudes to ART, impact of co-morbidities and multiple medications, and relationships with healthcare providers (HCP).

Methods:

Data for both surveys were collected in 2019 using an online/in-person survey (PP2) and online/hardcopy self-complete survey (HF9). Surveys were open to adults living with HIV. PP2 excluded PLHIV not currently on ART. Descriptive analysis was used to explore responses to each item.

Results:

In both surveys, most PLHIV reported very good or good overall health (64% PP2) and wellbeing (50% HF9) and the majority were satisfied with their ART (83% PP2; 77 % HF9). PLHIV expressed concern about long-term health impacts of daily ART (65% PP2) or worried ART was harmful (45% HF9). In PP2, 52% reported polypharmacy and 58% reported ≥ 2 comorbidities. In both surveys, between 10-20% indicated they were not comfortable speaking to their HCP about a treatment review, side effects, drug-interactions, or long-term side effects.

Conclusion:

HF9 and PP2 indicate mutuality with both instruments demonstrating similar needs and aspirations of PLHIV in Australia. HCP need to be aware of unexpressed concerns of PLHIV regarding the long-term usage of ART and should consider opening this discussion with patients.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Financial support for primary data collection for PP2 came from ViiV Healthcare. Fielding of the PP2 survey was conducted by Ipsos Healthcare.