

LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL HIV CLINICS: WHERE WORLDS MEET

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Background: SWSLHD services a large, multicultural and varied socioeconomic group of individuals. The HIV clinics care for a larger migrant and female population than other comparative metropolitan centres in New South Wales. Patients often present with a late diagnosis and require a socially and culturally sensitive healthcare approach.

The aim of this study was to collect epidemiological data on our cohort of patients.

Method: Data was collected retrospectively on all patients that attended the Liverpool Hospital Clinical Immunology HIV clinic. The information collected included sex, age, CD4 count, viral load, country of birth, risk factors, country in which HIV acquisition occurred, HIV subtype, medicare eligibility, new diagnosis, pregnancy, STI rates, HAND rates and comorbidities.

Results: Of the 233 patients managed from 2017-2018, 59 (25%) were women. Most of our HIV patients were born overseas; the majority were from Asia 33.5%, with 48.9% of patients being born in Australia. The median CD4 count of the clinic patients was 590 cells/uL with almost all being on treatment and demonstrating viral suppression. 5 patients were medicare ineligible and received medication on a compassionate basis from ViiV Healthcare. Rates of comorbidities, including those associated with cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer were calculated. STI rates were also calculated. From the beginning of 2017 the clinic has managed 24 new HIV diagnoses with an average CD4 count and viral load at diagnosis of 264 cells/uL and 344,000 copies/ml respectively. A large proportion of these patients presented with an opportunistic infection. 21 babies have been born to 20 HIV+ women from 2010-2018. One of these babies was tested to be HIV+.

Conclusion/Discussion: Our service supports a vulnerable and varied patient demographic. In particular, women represent a larger percentage of our cohort than other metropolitan centres who tend to have larger MSM populations. A focus on women's and migrant health has been imperative for the success of our clinic.

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