Immune, Virologic and Adherence Measures as Time-Dependent Predictors of Loss to Follow-Up

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ABSTRACT

Background: In a study that enrolled a large number of patients on ART, baseline HIV-1 RNA and CD4+ cell count were associated with patient attrition. To identify potential future interventions for improving overall retention, we evaluated time-dependent predictors of loss to follow-up (LTFU) in a retrospective cohort study of patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Nigeria. Methods: Inclusion criteria: enrolled June 2004-February 2011 (to allow for at least 2 months since patient's last ART pick-up). Analysis of VL and CD4+ measurements was conducted in a time-dependent manner using the most recent available results. Results: Percentages of patients who experienced >1 ART pick-up by month with complete follow-up: 2004: 2004-2005: 2005-2006: 2006-2007: 2007-2008: 2008-2009: 2009-2010: 2010-2011: 33.5 26.7 34.8 24.6 13.9 24.2 39.4 24.2. Baseline characteristics of ARV-naive treatment cohort

RESULTS

Between June 2004-February 2011, the Harvard/APIN PEPFAR program initiated 37,577 HIV-1 mono-infected ART-naive patients on ART. Of March 2012: 14,826 (39%) were LTU, 816 (2%) died, and 1,815 (5%) were transferred to another facility. Overall, 20% were LTFU. Percentages of patients with >1 ART pick-up by month with complete follow-up: 2004: 2004-2005: 2005-2006: 2006-2007: 2007-2008: 2008-2009: 2009-2010: 2010-2011: 33.5 26.7 34.8 24.6 13.9 24.2 39.4 24.2. Baseline characteristics of ARV-naive treatment cohort

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