HIV TEAMS AS TOOL TO IMPROVE THE HIV TESTING CASCADE IN HOSPITALS

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BACKGROUND

- In the Netherlands, the majority of patients newly diagnosed with HIV are **diagnosed late**
- Their medical history shows multiple **missed opportunities** to test for HIV
- **Adequate testing** of patients at risk for HIV is key to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic

- #aware.hiv focusses on **improving** the first steps of the HIV testing cascade by adequate **identification** and **HIV testing** practices of patients with **HIV indicator conditions (ICs)**

METHODS

- Single center prospective implementation project at Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- A sensitive **semi-automated hospital-wide HIV IC detection tool** was developed to identify ICs using a two-step approach on electronically recorded ICD-10 and standardized health insurance codes (DBC)
- **HIV IC prevalence** and **testing practices** where recorded in the **pre-intervention** phase (January 2020 – August 2020) and in the **intervention** phase (August 2020 – August 2021)
- **Intervention**: proactive testing recommendations from HIV team (HIV experts and HIV nurses)

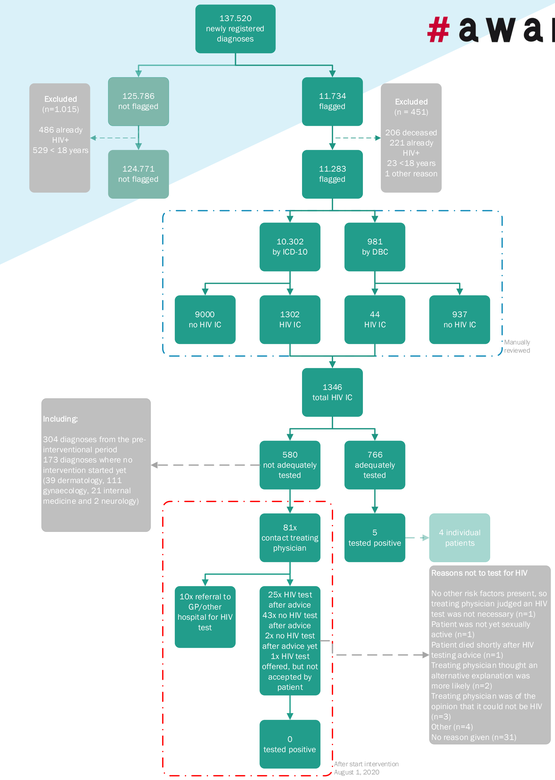
- Primary objective: **to evaluate the effect of HIV teams promoting HIV testing practices**

Pre-intervention: **43%** (225 of 529 HIV ICs) **adequately tested** for HIV

During intervention: **69**% (566 of 817 HIV ICs) **adequately tested** for HIV

Overall, **43%** of all HIV ICs were **not adequately tested** for HIV

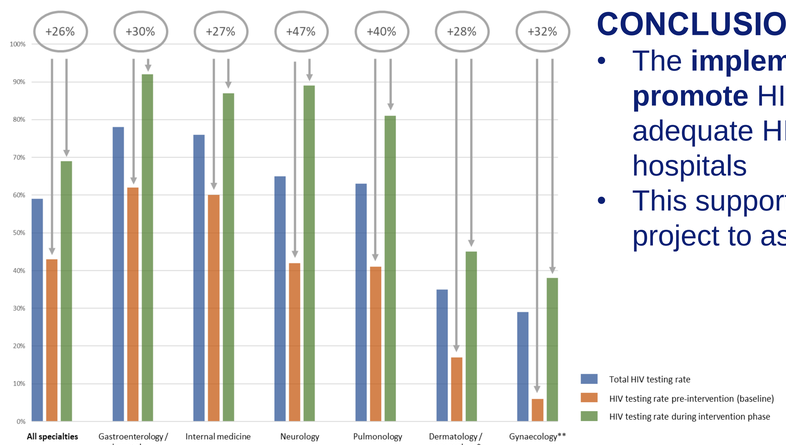
Five (0.7%) of the 766 tested HIV ICs where found **positive**



RESULTS

- **137,540** newly registered diagnoses (see flowchart)
- **11,734 (8.5%)** flagged as possible HIV ICs
- Manual cross-checking identified **1,346 (1.0%) HIV ICs**: **529** pre-interventional and **817** during intervention

- Intervention resulted in 25 extra HIV tests



* Intervention phase started May 1st 2021
** Intervention phase started December 1st 2020, no intervention was done for cervical dysplasie

CONCLUSIONS

- The **implementation** of HIV teams can **promote** HIV IC identification and **increase** adequate HIV IC-guided HIV testing in hospitals
- This supports the further expansion of the project to assess its effectiveness

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