HIV TEAMS AS A TOOL TO IMPROVE HIV INDICATOR CONDITION-GUIDED TESTING

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On behalf of the #aware.hiv project group

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BACKGROUND

- **Majority** of patients newly diagnosed with HIV in the Netherlands are **late presenters**
- Multiple **missed testing opportunities** prior to HIV diagnosis, for example due to not testing for HIV in patients diagnosed with HIV indicator conditions
- To stop the epidemic, **adequate identification** of people unaware of their HIV diagnosis is **necessary**
- **HIV indicator condition-guided testing** facilitates a **timely diagnosis** of HIV
- This study aimed to **evaluate** the **impact of HIV teams**, led by an HIV expert, on **HIV indicator condition-guided testing** in hospitals

METHODS

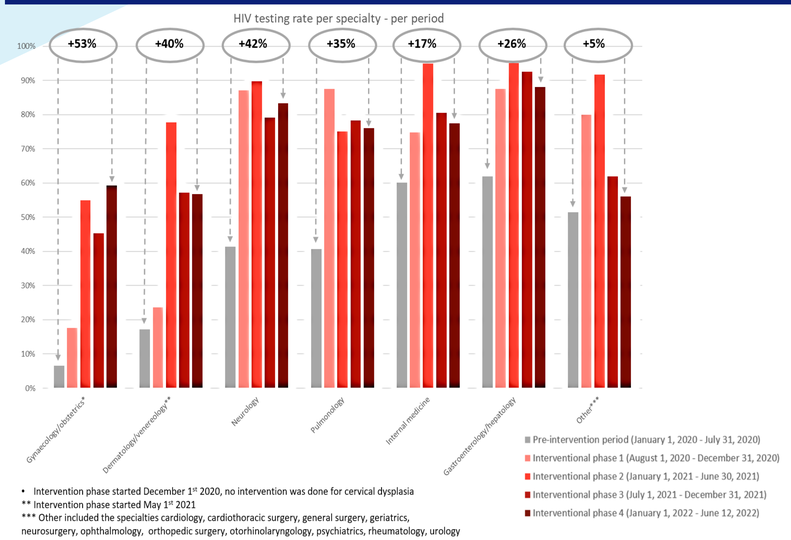
- A single center, **prospective, implementation project** conducted at Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Data were collected on patients ≥18 years entering care between January 1st 2020 and June 12th 2022
- A **two-step approach** was used to identify possible HIV indicator conditions by using automatic **ICD-10** and standardized health insurance (**DBC**) codes
- **Flagged HIV indicator conditions** were systematically reviewed by the HIV team
- **Multi-angle intervention** (started August 1st 2020) included proactive HIV testing recommendations
- We evaluated **HIV indicator condition prevalence** and the **impact of HIV teams on HIV testing rate** overall, per intervention phase and per specialty

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

After implementation: **68%** (1,019 of 1,497 HIV ICs) **adequately tested** for HIV

9 (0.7%) of the 1,244 tested HIV ICs where found **positive**

Increase in HIV testing rate was seen in **all specialties**



* Intervention phase started December 1st 2020, no intervention was done for cervical dysplasia
** Intervention phase started May 1st 2021
*** Other included the specialties cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, general surgery, geriatrics, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otorhinolaryngology, psychiatrics, rheumatology, urology

RESULTS

- A total of **218,211 diagnoses** were newly registered, of which **18,743** (8.6%) were flagged as **possible HIV indicator conditions**
- After manually reviewing, **2,026** (0.9%) **HIV indicator conditions** were **identified**
- **Overall HIV testing rate** of HIV indicator conditions is **61.4%** (1,244/2,026)
- **Pre-implementation**, the HIV testing rate was **43.0%**
- After implementation of HIV teams, HIV testing rate were **52.1%, 80.7%, 68.7%,** and **70.4%** for interventional **phase 1, 2, 3**, and **4**, respectively
- **Overall HIV positivity rate** was **0.7%** (9/1,244), pre-implementation 0.4% and after implementation 0.8%
- An **increase** was seen in **HIV testing rate** in **all specialties** (range 5% – 53%), with a peak in the first or second implementation phase (figure)

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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