

# ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY: SWITCHING IN VIROLOGICALLY UNSUPPRESSED HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS

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## Background

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has markedly decreased the morbidity and mortality due to HIV disease, however, in a percentage of patients a change of treatment is needed.

## Purpose

To determine the rates of therapy switching in HIV virologically unsuppressed patients, the reasons for changing therapy, to estimate adherence levels and to know drug-resistant mutations profiles.

## Methods

**Patients Included:** those patients switching ART with HIV RNA values >20 copies/ml. Patients under 18 and those who were on their first-line therapy no longer than 24 weeks, were excluded

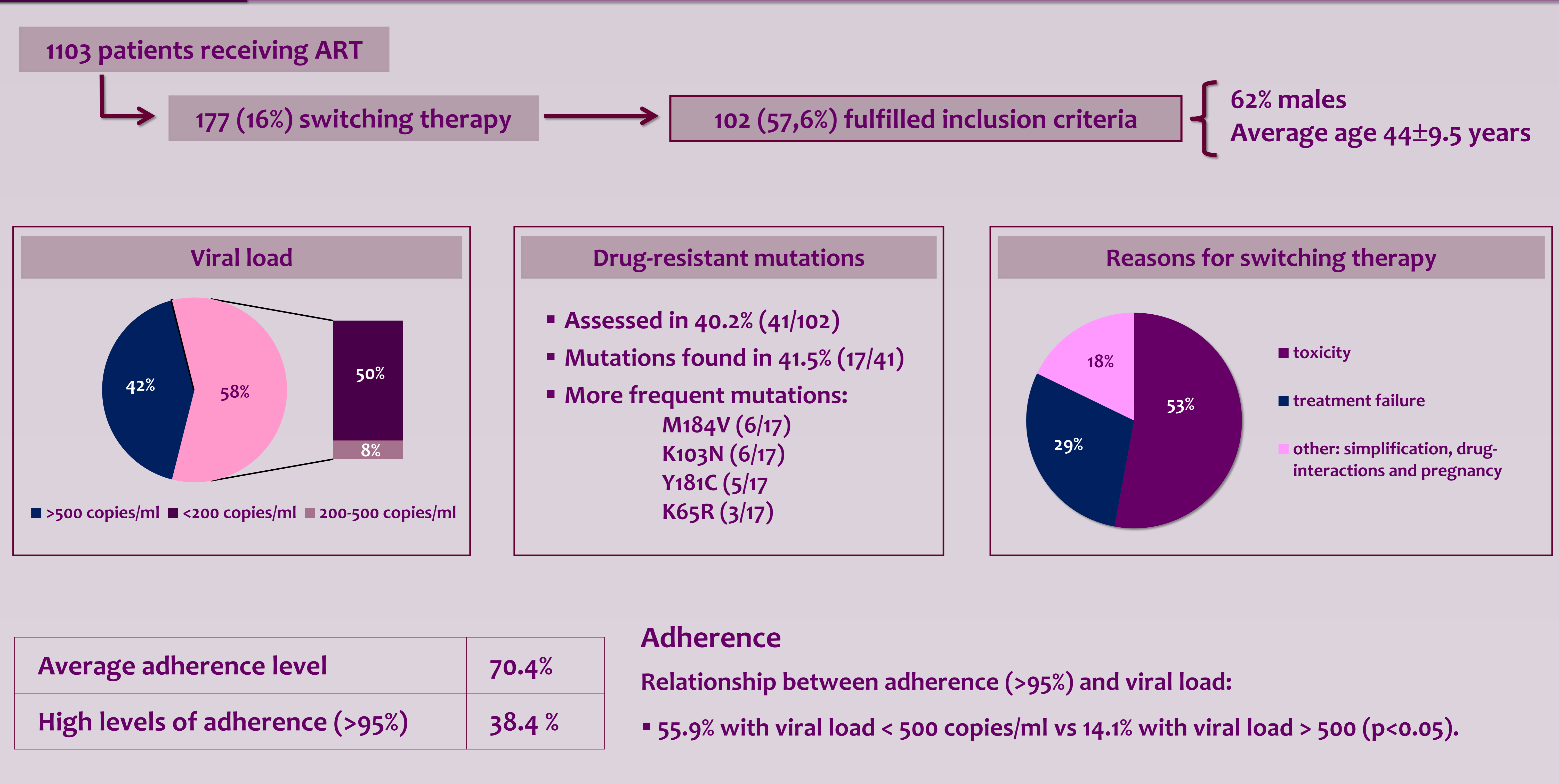
**Type and period of study:** Descriptive observational study, 2011.

**Data source:** Medical records and pharmacy database

**Data collected:**

- Age, Gender.
- ART and HIV RNA values before and after switching.
- Cause of changing.
- Adherence level (dispensing register for the last three months).
- Resistance testing.

## Results



## Conclusions

Toxicity was the main reason for changing ART. The percentage of “good-adherent” patients was very low in virologically unsuppressed HIV-infected patients, especially in those patients with high viral loads; therefore an adequate adherence to therapy is a key factor in viral suppression