

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVE ADHERENCE AND RETENTION IN CARE AMONG ILLICIT DRUG USERS WITH HIV/ AIDS

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Background

There is a need for developing strategies to improve outcomes of antiretroviral therapy (ART) among HIV-positive drug users with poor psychosocial support

Purpose

Evaluate the results of a strategic collaboration between the Infectious Diseases Unit (IDU), Hospital Pharmacy (HP) and Drug Addiction Association (ASFEDRO) to improve ART adherence and retention in care among drug users with HIV/AIDS.

Material and methods

IDU and HP identified HIV-positive drug users with unsuccessful medical appointments, irregular ART dispensing records and difficulties to compliance



methadone

The strategic collaboration intended to integrate ART in a methadone maintenance program (MMT)

Every Tuesday, ASFEDRO pharmacist met IDU to discuss previously selected patients and collect their ART at HP



- According to prescriptions, hospital pharmacist validated and dispensed ART for one month.
- Patients attended to the ASFEDRO facilities where the pharmacist delivered methadone and ART over the same period of time, conducted counselling sessions to enhanced drug adherence behaviour, and reinforced the appointments compliance with medical care

Variables collected were socio-demographic, clinical, ART-related and psychosocial

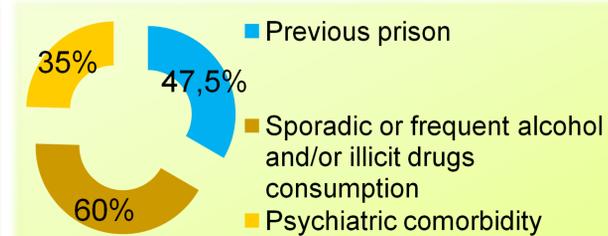
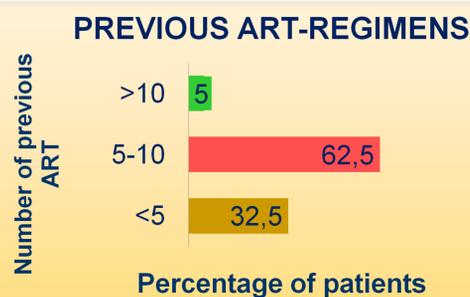
Adherence was evaluated through ASFEDRO records. Maintenance in HIV care was evaluated through blood test and medical consultations appointments. Statistical analyses were done using SPSS v.21.

Results

Baseline characteristics of patients

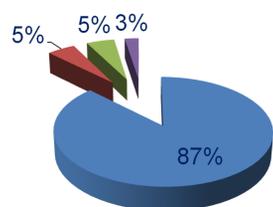
40 patients
Mean age :49 (39-66) years
75% males

Mean duration of HIV infection was 16 (2-31) years
60% CDC stage C
70% HCV-coinfected
42,5% viral load > 50 copies/mL



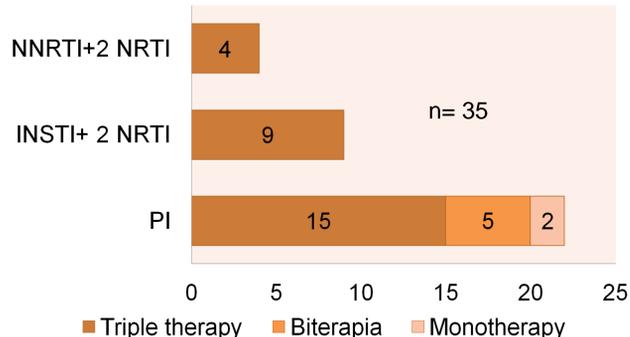
Evaluation post-implementation

During follow-up (n)



- Continued on ART and engaged in HIV care
- MMT left (2)
- Move to another location (2)
- Died (1)

Combinations of ART at present



At the end of the study period

- ✓ VL was below 50 copies/mL in all patients
- ✓ VL was below 20 copies/mL in 95%
- ✓ Adherence was 95-100%.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS RETRIEVED (83% patients)

208 consultation appointments
76 blood tests

Only one patient presented two hospital admissions for opportunistic disease associated with therapeutic noncompliance

43% of HCV-coinfected patients were treated with direct- acting antivirals and all of them achieved sustained virological response

Conclusion

✓ The strategic collaboration between IDU, HP and ASFEDRO linked ART with MMT, improved adherence and maintenance in care of HIV-positive drug users