

"Antiretroviral treatment adherence in pediatric patients"

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Background

A lack of adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART) is the main cause of treatment failure in both children and adults, and it is particularly important in adolescents.

Purpose

To determine the adherence to ART in HIV-infected children.

Methods

Observational study: A one-year (January-December 2012) of HIV paediatrics patients.

Data collected: age, gender, HIV transmission mode, hepatitis C status, ART, adherence rate, HIV viral load (VL), CD4 cell count, person who collects and administers ART. **Adherence** was measured by pharmacy refill records, as 'total number units dispensed/total number units needed' x 100. Patients were considered as: adherent (adherence rate ≥90%) and non adherent (adherence rate <90%)

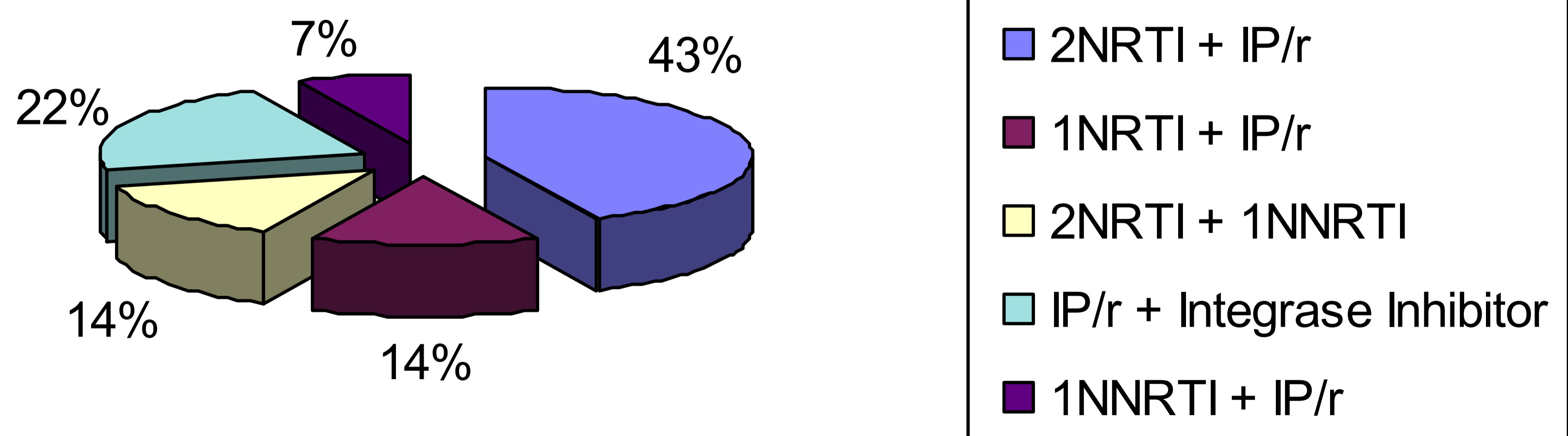
Data source: Clinical history and Pharmacy Department records.

Results

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION (n=14)

Age	n (male)	VHC	Adherent	VL<20	CD4>500	Person who collects and administers ART
6-15 years old	10 (5)	1	8	10	10	Parent patients / Caregivers
18-20 years old	4 (2)	1	Non-Adherent	2	4	The patient
HIV transmission mode was vertical in all patients						

ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT



Conclusions:

- Adherence in patients under responsibility of family members or care-givers (6-15 years old) was 80%, and was related to the effectiveness of ART.
- When patients were in charge of their own treatment, adolescents were less compliant and virological failure was greater.