Missed Opportunities for an Early HIV Diagnosis in Greece (MORFEAS) - preliminary results

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Background and Aim of the study

People living with HIV (PLWH) presenting late in care may have been previously evaluated for symptoms associated with HIV or COVID, as symptoms between HIV and covid may sometimes overlap clinically, with been missed opportunities for earlier diagnosis. COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions limiting access to testing. The goals of this preliminary analysis are to determine the frequency, describe features of health care contacts (HCC) prior to an HIV diagnosis and quantify missed opportunities before and during the COVID-19 waves.

Materials and Methods

Retrospective study multicenter (10 HIV clinics, in Greece). Health Care Contact (HCC) data were collected from medical files of adult PLWH diagnosed with available CD4 count at baseline from 1/1/2019 till 31/12/2021

*Missed opportunity (MO): An HCC due to a clinical manifestation or laboratory abnormality of an indicator condition that did not lead to HIV testing within the 5 years before diagnosis.

*Late presentation (LP): Diagnosis with a CD4 count <350/mm³ or an AIDS-defining condition regardless of CD4 count.

Results*

A total of 712 new HIV cases were included in this preliminary analysis* (39.4% of 1804 cases diagnosed during 2019-2021).

Baseline characteristics of the study sample are described in the table. Figures a, b and c describe MOs by calendar year, transmission category and most common clinical condition

Conclusions

- Missed opportunities for earlier testing/diagnosis of HIV infection and late presentation are key challenges in combatting the HIV epidemic.

- It remains important to increase awareness and uptake of testing and educate HCPs on indication-based testing.

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