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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

Definitions

- **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).

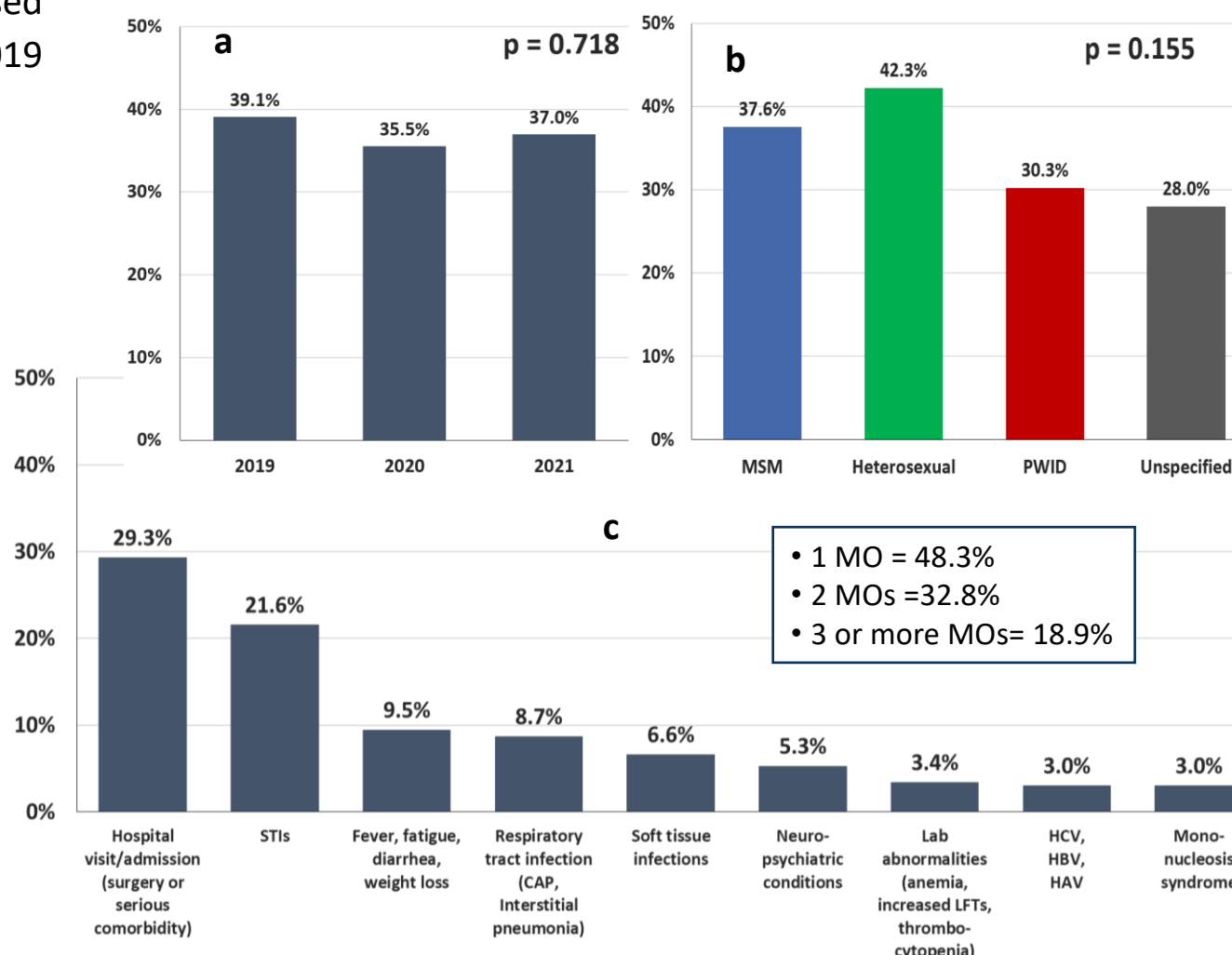
Baseline characteristics of the study sample are described in the table. Figures a, b and c describe MOs by calendar year, transmission category and most common clinical condition

Results*

Table: Participants' characteristics in MORFEAS program

	N = 712
Age (years), mean (SD)	39.4 (11.7)
Male gender, n (%)	609 (85.5)
Greek nationality, n (%)	539 (75.7)
Transmission category, n (%)	
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	418 (58.7)
Heterosexual	168 (23.6)
Injection drug use (IDU)	76 (10.7)
Previous HIV testing, n (%)	286 (40.2)
AIDS at diagnosis, n (%)	113 (15.9)
CD4 count at diagnosis, median (25 th , 75 th)	321 (155, 505)

Figure: Missed opportunities for earlier HIV testing/diagnosis by a)calendar year, b)transmission category & c)most common conditions



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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*The poster contains updated information in relation to the abstract submitted, due to the availability of a larger sample available for analysis.