

Comparison of 4 Frailty scores to predict adverse health outcomes and mortality in people living with HIV aged 70 years and more (ANRS EP66 SEPTAVIH study)



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Background

Frailty is associated with adverse health outcomes in older persons. Studies have evaluated frailty in middle-aged persons living with HIV (PLWH). Phenotypic frailty standard evaluation uses the 5-item FRIED criteria (exhaustion, weakness, slow walking speed, weight loss and low physical activity), which has been associated in the general and HIV population with adverse health outcomes. Other screening tools of frailty exist: the FRAIL scale (recommended in the last EACS guidelines), Study of Osteoporotic Fractures frailty index (SOF), and the French Authority of Health questionnaire (HAS). We evaluated the association of all these tools with adverse health outcomes or mortality over 36 months in geriatric aged PLWH on ART.

Materials and Methods

Our Study was nested in the French multicenter prospective ANRS EP66 SEPTAVIH study, aimed to assess frailty prevalence and factors in PLWH 70+ taking ART for at least 12 months. At baseline frailty was assessed using the FRIED index score and FRAIL, SOF and HAS screening tools. FRIED score and HAS questionnaire were collected at each visit. FRAIL and SOF scores were calculated, using prospectively collected variables and proxies (table 1).

Adverse health outcomes of falls, hospitalization, emergency room visit, nursing home placement, disability, and mortality were collected at 12, 24 and 36 months.

We used log-binomial regression to analyze the association between frailty and adverse health outcomes or death and Cox proportional hazard model for association between frailty and mortality.

Table 1 - Details of items and adapted items and scoring of the frailty scores

Frailty score	Interpretation	Adapted item if not specifically collected in SEPTAVIH						
FRIED								
Loss of weight	Weight loss > 5% or > 4.5 Kg							
Weakness	Grip strenght (by gender and BMI)							
Exhaustion	Self report (question 20 CES-D)							
Slowness	Walking time 4 m							
Low activity	IPAQ questionnaire							
Scoring: Robust (score 0), prefrail (score 1-2), frail (score 3-4-5)								
FRAIL								
Fatigue	« have you felt fatigued? »	Q-1 HIV Symptom distress						
Resistance	« do you have difficulty to climb a flight of	Q-6 HAS questionnaire						
	stairs? »							
Ambulation	« do you have difficulty walking one	Q-4 HAS questionnaire						
	block?»							
Illness	« do you have any of these illnesses :	Listed comorbidities in the						
	hypertension, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung	eCRF						
	disease, heart attack, congestive heart							
	failure, angina, asthma, arthritis, stroke, and							
	kidney disease? »							
	weight loss > 5% in the past year							
Scoring: Robust (score 0), prefrail (score 1-2), frail (score 3-4-5)								
SOF								
Loss of weight	weight loss > 5% in the past year							
Inability	Inability to rise from a chair 5 times without	SPPB 4.3 : rise from a						
	use of arms	chair (number/60 s)						
Energy	« do you feel full of energy? »	Q-20 CES-D						
Scoring: Robust (n=0), prefrail (score 1), frail (score 2-3)								

HAS questionnaire

Assessment								
	Yes	No	Do not Know					
Does your patient live alone?								
Has your patient lost weight in the last 3 months?								
Has your patient felt more tired over the past 3 months?								
Has your patient had more difficulty getting around in the last 3 months?								
Does your patient complain about memory?								
Does your patient have a slowed walking speed (more than 4 seconds to cover 4 meters)?								

If you answered YES to any of these questions:

Does your patient seem frail to you: ☐ YES ☐ NO

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Results

- 510 PLWH, mostly male (81.4%), with a median age of 73 years, a median HIV infection duration of 22.7 years, were included;
- 13% were classified as frail using FRIED, 9% using FRAIL, 7% using SOF and 26% using the HAS scores (Figure 1).
- During the 36-month follow up, 40 participants (7.9%) died and 254 participants (50%) had at least one adverse health outcome (Figure 2).

The risk of adverse health outcomes or death over 36 months was higher when PLWH were classified as frail using FRIED, FRAIL and HAS but not SOF (table 2).

Frailty was strongly associated with mortality when assessed with FRIED, FRAIL, and HAS but not SOF (Table 3).

Figure 2 - Adverse Health Outcomes at M12, M24 and M36 Figure 1 - Prevalence of frailty according to different scores

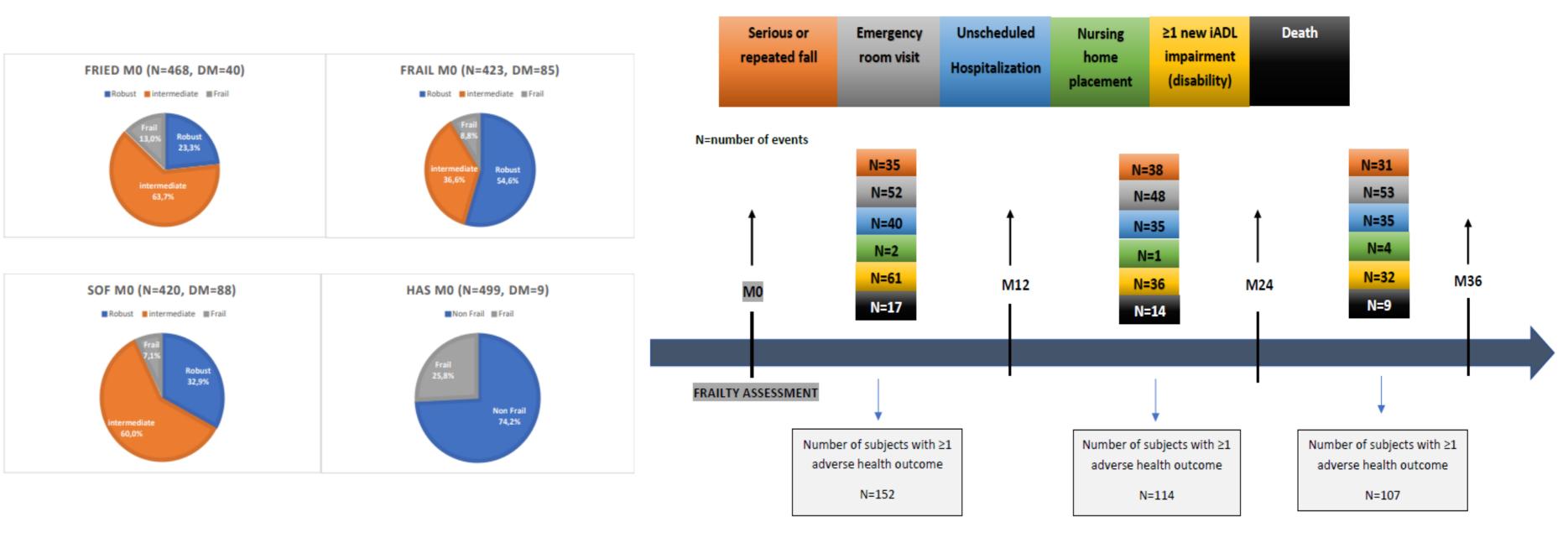


Table 2 - Association of frailty status assessed with FRIED phenotype, FRAIL score, SOF index and HAS questionnaire, and adverse health outcomes or mortality over 36 months.

Table 3 - Association of frailty status assessed with FRIED phenotype, FRAIL score, SOF index and HAS questionnaire, and mortality over 36 months.

Frailty score		Log-Binomial regression		Frailty score		Cox model	
at Baseline	Relative Risk	[95% CI]	p-value	at Baseline	Hazard ratio	[95% CI]	p-value
FRIED				FRIED			
Robustness (n=84)	1.0	[reference]		Robustness (n=109)	1.0	[reference]	
Prefrailty (n=211)	1.01	[0.85-1.20]	0.89	Prefrailty (n=298)	2.35	[0.81-6.79]	0.11
Frailty (n=39)	1.25	[1.02-1.52]	0.03	Frailty (n=61)	5.37	[1.65-17.47]	0.005
FRAIL				FRAIL			
Robustness (n=166)	1.0	[reference]		Robustness (n=231)	1.0	[reference]	
Prefrailty (n=116)	1.30	[1.11-1.52]	0.001	Prefrailty (n=155)	4.69	[1.99-11.02]	<0.0001
Frailty (n=25)	1.66	[1.47-1.88]	<0.001	Frailty (n=37)	4.54	[1.33-15.53]	0.016
SOF				SOF			
Robustness (n=97)	1.0	[reference]		Robustness (n=138)	1.0	[reference]	
Prefrailty (n=182)	1.10	[0.93-1.31]	0.28	Prefrailty (n=252)	1.60	[0.67-3.77]	0.29
Frailty (n=20)	1.23	[0.95-1.60]	0.12	Frailty (n=30)	2.84	[0.83-9.72]	0.10
HAS				HAS			
No frailty (n=261)	1.0	[reference]		No frailty (n=370)	1.0	[reference]	
Frailty (n=94)	1.41	[1.26-1.59]	<0.001	Frailty (n=129)	5.00	[2.65-9.41]	<0.001

Conclusion

- ✓ This study is one of the first one to compare different scores of frailty in a geriatric population living with HIV aged 70-year or more on the occurrence of adverse health outcomes over 3 years.
- FRIED phenotype, FRAIL score and HAS tools, but not SOF index strongly predicted the risk of adverse health outcomes or mortality in a geriatric population living with HIV.
- ✓ Mortality over 36 months was strongly associated with frailty status when assessed with FRIED phenotype (HR 5.37), FRAIL score (HR 4.54), and HAS questionnaire (HR 5.00), but not SOF index.
- ✓ These results are reassuring concerning the choice of both the FRAIL EACS guidelines V12.0 and the HAS questionnaire in the French guidelines as a screening test for frailty in an elderly population living with HIV.

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