

Current approaches and challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and management of HIV in Australia*

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Disclosures

DS:

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Background

- Shifting considerations – explored attitudes/practices in management of HIV in Australia
- Three key access points for HIV management in Australia:
 - s100 General Practitioners (s100 GPs)
 - Sexual Health Physicians (SHPs)
 - Hospital-Based Physicians (HBPs; mainly infectious disease or immunology specialists)

Methods: survey design

- 20-minute online quantitative survey Oct–Nov 2017
- Survey designed by panel of HIV-therapy prescribers
- Invitations sent to:
 - s100 GPs, SHPs and HBPs from Kantar Health database
 - random selection of HIV-therapy prescribers from ASHM membership database

Methods: participants

- Participants:
 - 26 of 835 invited s100 GPs (3%)
 - 24 of 174 invited SHPs (13%)
 - 6 of 54 invited HBPs (11%)

Methods: survey questions and analysis

Key question areas:

- Prescriber/practice/patient profile (24 questions)
- HIV testing/diagnosis (6 questions)
- Treatment (10 questions)
- Management challenges and unmet needs (4 questions)

Analysis:

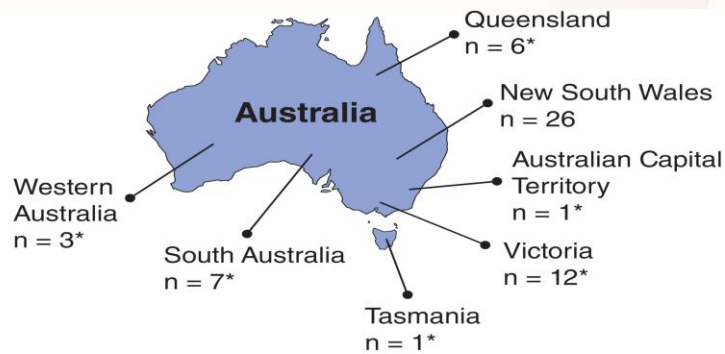
- Responses analysed by ANOVA (one-way) or Chi-square test where appropriate

Results



1. Profiling data

Geographical spread of survey participants



*Denotes small sample size.



1. Profiling data

Practitioner patient caseload:

- Mean total across all specialties: 350 patients/month, mean of 49 of these identified as PLWHIV (14%)
- Managing PLWHIV represents lower proportion of overall caseload for **s100 GPs (6%) vs. SHPs (40%)**

Typical HIV-infected patient profile:

- Male, age 31–45 years or 46–65 years, MSM/bisexual with an early HIV diagnosis (CD4 count > 500 cells/ μ L)

2. Diagnosis

Symptoms triggering HIV testing

	% practitioners [†] mentioning	s100 GPs (n = 26)	SHPs (n = 24)	HBP (n = 6*)
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	89	77%	100%	100%
Acute illness (e.g. flu-like symptoms, fever, sore throat, severe headaches, diarrhoea)	86	69%	100%	100%
Fever and night sweats	82	73%	88%	100%
Swollen glands	80	77%	79%	100%
Skin rash or skin sores	71	65%	75%	83%
Ulcers in the genitals	71	62%	79%	83%
Infections	59	46%	67%	83%
Ulcers in the mouth	57	50%	58%	83%
Bacterial and yeast infections	50	50%	50%	50%

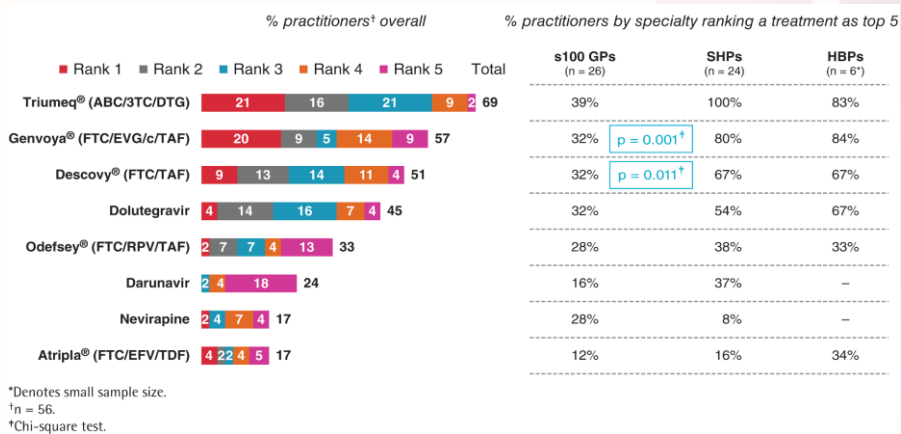
*Denotes small sample size.

[†]n = 56.

[‡]Chi-square test.

3. Treatment

Most commonly prescribed HIV treatments in past 6 months



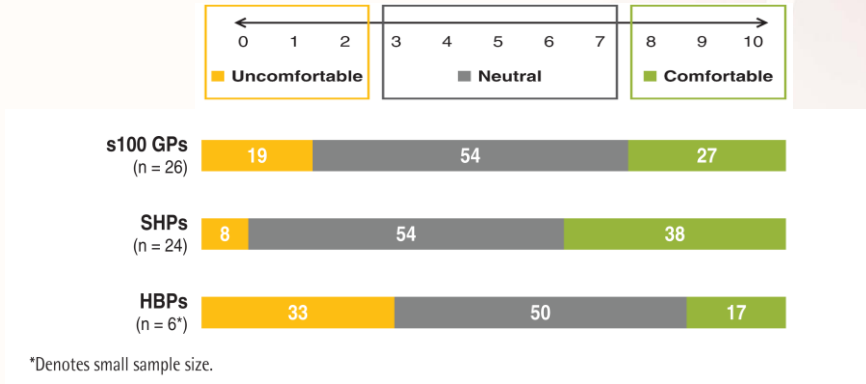
3. Treatment

Most commonly prescribed HIV treatments for patients newly diagnosed with HIV infection (% prescribing)

HIV treatment	Total practitioners (n = 56)	s100 GPs (n = 26)	SHPs (n = 24)	HBP (n = 6*)
Genvoya® (FTC/EVG/c/TAF)	27	23	21	67
Triumeq® (ABC/3TC/DTG)	27	–	63	–
Zidovudine (ZDV)	11	23	–	–
Atripla® (FTC/EFV/TDF)	7	12	–	17

3. Treatment

Comfort levels initiating treatment on day of diagnosis (% practitioners)



3. Treatment

Drivers for switching HIV treatment

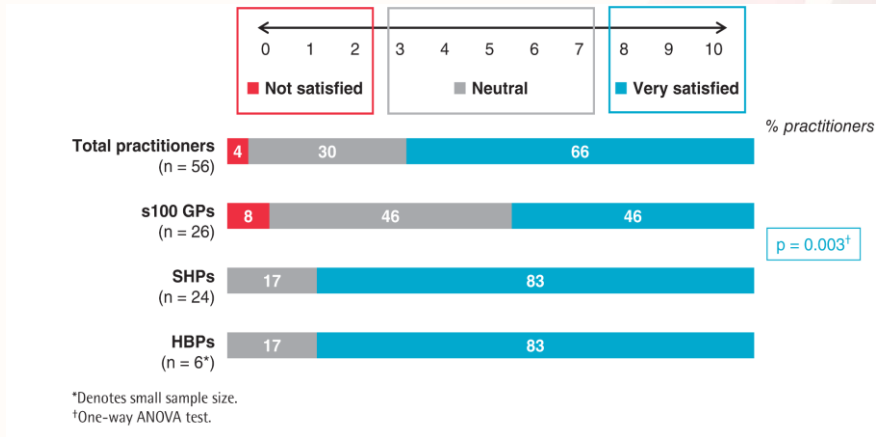
% practitioners [†] mentioning	s100 GPs (n = 26)	SHPs (n = 24)	HBPs (n = 6*)
Development of comorbidities	69%	83%	83%
Actual adverse events	65%	83%	100%
Simplification of the treatment protocol	58%	$p = 0.019^{\ddagger}$	83%
Avoidance of drug-drug interactions	46%	96%	83%
Suboptimal response	62%	71%	83%
New guidelines	62%	58%	67%
Avoidance of potential adverse events	42%	$p < 0.001^{\ddagger}$	100%
Patient request	27%	$p = 0.005^{\ddagger}$	83%
Guidance from peers/colleagues	42%	33%	33%

*Denotes small sample size.
[†]n = 56.
[‡]Chi-square test.



4. Management challenges/unmet needs

Satisfaction levels with current HIV guidelines and practices



4. Management challenges/unmet needs

Critical challenges in managing HIV infection for practitioners (% mentioning)

Challenge	Total practitioners (n = 56)	s100 GPs (n = 26)	SHPs (n = 24)	HBPs (n = 6)
Mental health/ psychological	29	27	25	50
Comorbidities management	18	4	25	50
Substance abuse	16	15	17	17
Patient compliance	13	12	13	17

Key findings (1)

- Fewer s100 GPs listed Triumeq® and Genvoya® as most commonly prescribed HIV therapies vs. SHPs and HBPs
- Higher proportion of s100 GPs nominated older HIV therapies for newly diagnosed patients vs. SHPs:
 - 23% s100 GPs reported ZDV and 12% Atripla® as top treatments, no mentions from SHPs
- s100 GPs less likely to switch HIV therapies to simplify treatment protocol compared with SHPs (88% vs. 58%, respectively; $p=0.019$)

Key findings (2)

- Lower levels of satisfaction with current HIV practice guidelines reported by s100 GPs:
 - 83% of SHPs very satisfied vs. 46% of s100 GPs
- Across all specialties, increasing patient access to mental health services reported as key management issue
 - Mentioned by 36% of all practitioners

Questions?



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