IMPLEMENTING INTRAMUSCULAR ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY IN A DIVERSE REGIONAL COHORT OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

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Background/Purpose:
The Illawarra Shoalhaven Sexual Health Service (ISSHS) reaches from Wollongong south along the NSW coast with a significant regional and rural cohort. This publicly funded sexual health service (PFSHC) service manages 208 people living with HIV (PLWHIV). Cabenuva (Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine) injectable antiretroviral treatment was first initiated at ISSHS in April 2022.To date, 22 PLWHIV (10%) have been initiated on Cabenuva.

Approach:
We conducted a retrospective audit of the implementation of Cabenuva from 2022-2024. Data variables audited included demographics, sexual preference, viral load (VL) at initiation, whether oral lead in was used, cessation and side effects.

Outcomes/Impact:
Twenty two individuals were commenced on Cabenuva. The age range was 30-69 with a median age of 48 years and a median of 13 years since diagnosis. Fifteen patients were male and 7 were female. Of the males, 9 (41%) were men who have sex with men (MSM), 1 was bisexual and 5 were heterosexual. All the females were heterosexual. Three patients (14%) identified as Aboriginal. Nine patients opted to do an oral lead in (1 with a detectable VL), and 13 proceeded straight to intramuscular Cabenuva injections. Two patients (9%) ceased Cabenuva due to Rilpivirine site reactions. Three (14%) of patients were viraemic when initiated, and 1 patient had an unexpected pregnancy during treatment. This patient continued on Cabenuva during pregnancy.

Innovation and Significance:
Cabenuva has been initiated in 10% of our HIV positive cohort and has been well tolerated, with only 2 discontinuations. Although Cabenuva is not currently recommended for initiation in viraemic patients, 3 females with viraemia were initiated due to complex histories with few alternative options. All 3 rapidly reached sustained viral suppression. Cabenuva has not been well studied in pregnancy; 1 patient became pregnant and remained on Cabenuva and her and her baby experienced no known adverse outcomes.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: