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Post-migration HIV infection in the foreign-born population enrolled in the ICONA cohort.

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Disclosures

First Author (A. Saracino) declares relationships with the following commercial entities:

Gilead, ViiV, Abbvie, MSD, Janssen

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Background

- Migrants account for 40% of all new HIV diagnoses in Europe and 30% in Italy in last years [*ECDC 2020*].
- According to recent studies, a high rate (nearly 60%) of these infections are acquired after migrating to Europe, attesting a gap in prevention strategies targeted to this special population [*Alvarez-del Arco, 2017*].
- Only limited data are available on the extent of post-migration HIV infection in Italy.
- Herein, we aimed **to assess the proportion of post-migration HIV acquisition in migrants enrolled in the ICONA cohort**

Methods

- All foreigners (**birth country other than Italy**; hereafter “**migrants**”), for whom information regarding **date of arrival to Italy** was available in ICONA database, were included.
- **Timing of HIV infection was estimated based on:**
 - i) date of seroconversion (when available), or calculated as midpoint between dates of last negative and first HIV positive test with a maximum of 2 years (yrs) between test dates;
 - ii) CD4 depletion model parameters [Lodi et al, CID 2011];
 - iii) rate of ambiguous nucleotides (NT) (R/Y/K/M/S/W/B/D/H/V/N) in pre-ART *pol* sequences (when available) using BioEdit.

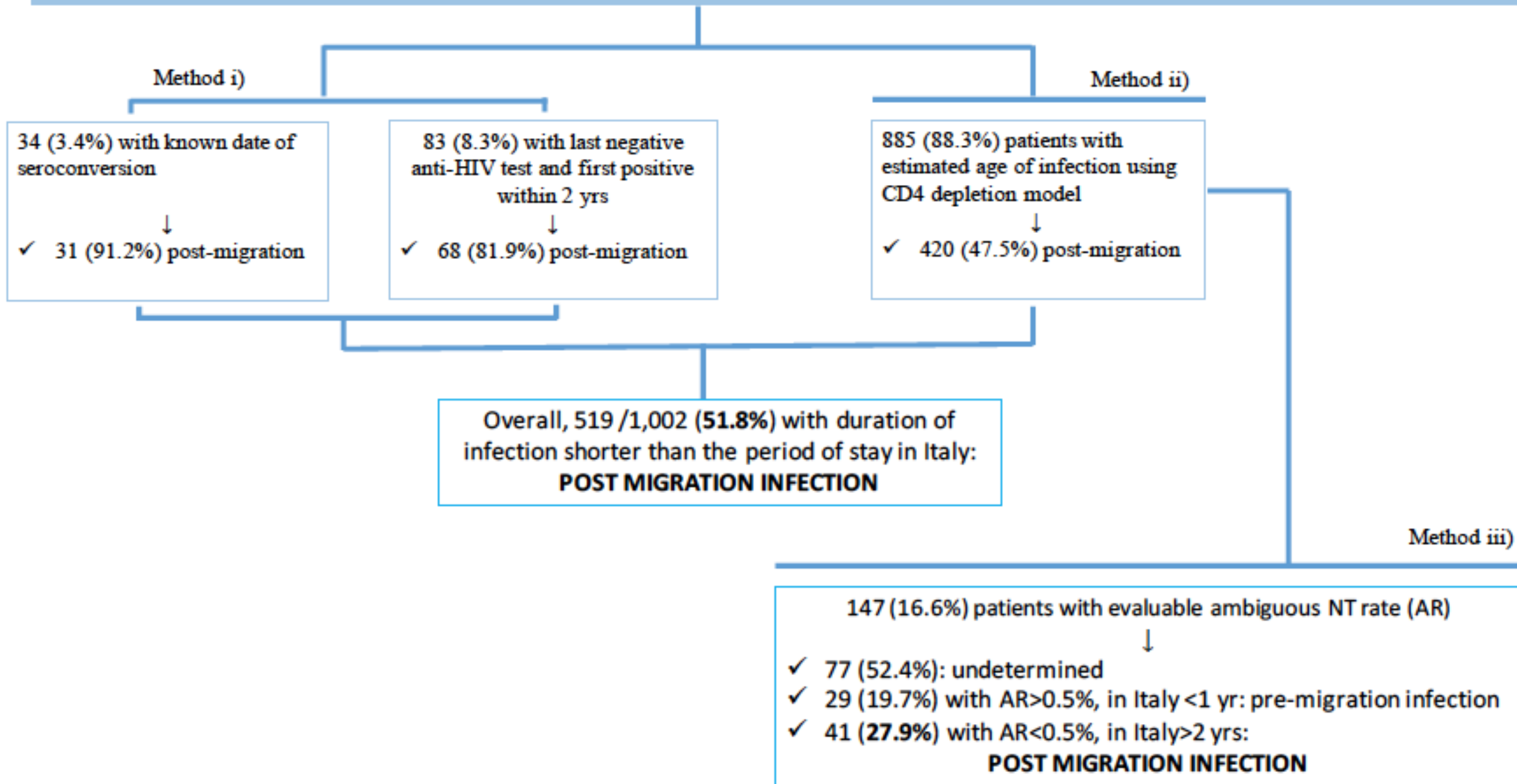
A sequence ambiguity threshold of 0.5% was used to discriminate recent (<1yr) from non-recent (>1yr) infections [Kouyos et al, CID 2011].
- **Logistic regression** was used to investigate factors associated with probability of HIV infection after arrival.

Results

- A total of **1,002 migrants** [58% males, median [IQR] age 33 (27-39) yrs, 44% from Africa] were included in the analysis

		Overall N=1002	HIV infection before migration N=483	HIV infection post migration N=519	p-value
Gender, n(%)	M	577 (57.6%)	252 (52.2%)	325 (62.6%)	0.001
	F	425 (42.4%)	231 (47.8%)	194 (37.4%)	
Age, years, median (IQR)		33 (27-39)	32 (27-38)	34 (28-41)	0.003
Mode of HIV infection, n(%)	Heterosexual	576 (57.5%)	321 (66.5%)	255 (49.1%)	<0.001
	IDU	52 (5.2%)	18 (3.7%)	34 (6.6%)	
	MSM	268 (26.8%)	94 (19.5%)	174 (33.5%)	
	other/unkwnon	106 (10.6%)	50 (10.4%)	56 (10.8%)	
Aids at enrolment, n(%)		172 (17.2%)	124 (25.7%)	48 (9.3%)	<0.001
HCVAb at enrolment, n(%)		74 (7.4%)	28 (5.8%)	46 (8.9%)	0.129
HBsAg at enrolment, n(%)		64 (6.4%)	39 (8.1%)	25 (4.8%)	0.101
CD4 cells/mm ³ , median (IQR)		308 (123-517)	173 (48-322)	440 (265-646)	<0.001
HIV RNA log copies/mL, median (IQR)		4.7 (4.0-5.3)	4.9 (4.2-5.5)	4.5 (3.7-5.1)	<0.001
Level of education, n(%)	primary	146 (14.6%)	73 (15.1%)	73 (14.1%)	<0.001
	secondary	178 (17.8%)	90 (18.6%)	88 (17.0%)	
	high school	202 (20.2%)	85 (17.6%)	117 (22.5%)	
	university	72 (7.2%)	18 (3.7%)	54 (10.4%)	
	unknown	404 (40.3%)	217 (44.9%)	187 (36.0%)	
Job, n(%)	employed/self employed	348 (34.7%)	137 (28.4%)	211 (40.6%)	<0.001
	unemployed	339 (33.8%)	189 (39.1%)	150 (28.9%)	
	occasional	96 (9.6%)	52 (10.8%)	44 (8.5%)	
	student/housewife	85 (8.5%)	42 (8.7%)	43 (8.3%)	
	other/missing	134 (13.4%)	63 (13.0%)	71 (13.7%)	
Nation, n(%)	Africa	413 (41.2%)	248 (51.6%)	165 (31.7%)	<0.001
	North Africa	31 (3.1%)	11 (2.3%)	20 (3.8%)	
	America Central and south America	283 (28.2%)	106 (22.0%)	177 (34.0%)	
	Asia	40 (4.0%)	15 (3.1%)	25 (4.8%)	
	Europe	104 (10.4%)	43 (8.9%)	61 (11.7%)	
	East Europa	115 (11.5%)	52 (10.8%)	63 (12.1%)	
	other	16 (1.6%)	6 (1.3%)	10 (1.9%)	

Fig. 1. Flow Diagram for 1,002 enrolled migrants with known date of arrival to Italy (ICONA cohort)



Logistic regression analysis

Crude and adjusted odds ratio (OR) of factors associated with the probability of post-migration HIV acquisition in 1,002 subjects with known date of arrival in Italy

		OR	95%CI	P-value	AOR	95%CI	P-value
Gender							
	M	1.00			1.00		
	F	1.54	1.19 1.98	0.001	1.13	0.78 1.63	0.527
Age, 10 years increase		1.02	1.01 1.04	0.003	1.65	1.38 1.98	0.000
Mode of HIV infection							
	Heterosexual	1.00			1.00		
	IDU	2.38	1.31 4.31	0.004	1.36	0.60 3.08	0.463
	MSM	2.33	1.73 3.15	0.000	1.53	0.99 2.37	0.053
	other/unkwnon	1.41	0.93 2.14	0.105	1.39	0.84 2.30	0.203
Aids at enrolment		0.30	0.21 0.42	0.000	0.66	0.42 1.03	0.068
HCVAAb at enrolment		1.55	0.95 2.53	0.080	1.32	0.68 2.58	0.417
HBsAg at enrolment		0.57	0.34 0.96	0.035	0.61	0.33 1.11	0.106
CD4 cells/mm ³ , 100 cell/mm ³ increase		1.48	1.39 1.57	0.000	1.49	1.38 1.62	0.000
HIV RNA, 1 log copies/mL increase		0.70	0.61 0.79	0.000	1.02	0.87 1.19	0.796
Level of education							
	Primary	1.00			1.00		
	Secondary	0.98	0.63 1.51	0.920	0.73	0.43 1.25	0.256
	high school	1.38	0.90 2.11	0.144	1.04	0.62 1.74	0.887
	University	3.00	1.61 5.60	0.001	1.54	0.75 3.15	0.239
	Unknown	0.86	0.59 1.26	0.441	0.80	0.51 1.25	0.327
Job							
	employed/self employed	1.00			1.00		
	Unemployed	0.52	0.38 0.70	0.000	0.58	0.39 0.84	0.004
	Occasional	0.55	0.35 0.87	0.010	0.63	0.36 1.12	0.114
	student/housewife	0.66	0.41 1.07	0.093	0.93	0.52 1.67	0.807
	other/missing	0.73	0.49 1.09	0.127	0.91	0.55 1.49	0.702

Conclusions

- Based on a statistical approach combining information on arrival date, last testing and CD4 count, **>50% of HIV infections was estimated to be acquired post-migration**, similarly to other European studies.
- **Based on sequence data**, we also were able to confirm that in **>25% of cases** HIV transmission occurred in Italy.
- This calls for urgent actions in order to prevent exposure to HIV in migrants.

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