Dettaglio abstract

Title: Interest in injecting Long-Acting agents by people living with HIV in Italy: a picture from the Icona Network

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Abstract
Background: Long-acting formulations of antiretroviral therapies (ART) can deliver drugs that can last for months, freeing people from daily regimens of pills, and will enter soon in clinical routine. The aim of this study is to understand reasons for people living with HIV (PLWH) to ask for an injecting Long-Acting agents (iLAA).
Methods: an online anonymous survey of PLWH on ART was conducted through ICONA Network sites and Patient Group websites between February and April 2021. The HIV Treatment & Diseases Burden has been investigated with a questionnaire containing 31 items -in 7 domains- with 5-point Likert scale answers from 1 (lowest burden) to 5 (highest burden), adapted from DT Eton et al, Qual Life Res 2017. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics. Weighted mean and linear regression models with weights were used to evaluate the differences according to interest in iLAA, overall in the HIV Treatment & Diseases Burden and in each domain of the questionnaire.
Results: 580 PLWH completed the questionnaire, 86% male, 14% female, mean age: 48 years (±11), 87% declared an undetectable HIV-RNA (8% unknown current HIV-RNA). Other characteristics are shown in Table1. Subjects interested in iLLA were younger (p

Table 1. PLWH characteristics according to interest in iLLA

	No interest in iLLA (N=251)	Interest in iLLA (N=330)	p-value	Overall (N=581)
Age, mean (SD)	50.1 (10.0)	46.7 (11.3)	<0.001	48.2 (10.9)
Sex at birth, male, n(%)	215 (85.7)	287 (87.0)	0.648	502 (86.4)
Nation of birth, Italy, n(%)	236 (94.0)	307 (93.0)	0.631	543 (93.5)
Education level, n(%)			0.023	
Middle school degree	24 (9.6)	21 (6.4)		45 (7.7)
Higher school degree	133 (53.0)	155 (47.0)		288 (49.6)
Univeristy degree	73 (29.1)	103 (31.2)		176 (30.3)
Master degree	17 (6.8)	48 (14.5)		65 (11.2)
Other/Unknown	4 (1.6)	3 (0.9)		7 (1.2)
Mode of HIV transmission, n(%)			0.080	
Sexual intercourse with people of the same sex	139 (55.4)	214 (64.8)		353 (60.8)
Sexual intercourse with people of the other sex	18 (7.2)	23 (7.0)		41 (7.1)
Sexual intercourse other	63 (25.1)	68 (20.6)		131 (22.5)
Other mode - non sexual	31 (12.3)	25 (7.6)		56 (9.6)
Year of HIV diagnosis, n(%)			<0.001	
<=2000	83 (33.1)	61 (18.5)		144 (24.8)
2001-2010	65 (25.9)	75 (22.7)		140 (24.1)
2011-2015	46 (18.3)	100 (30.3)		146 (25.1)
>=2016	57 (22.7)	94 (28.5)		151 (26.0)
CD4 current, cells/mmc, n(%)			0.172	
<200	23 (9.2)	31 (9.4)		54 (9.3)
200-500	57 (22.8)	56 (17.0)		113 (19.5)
>500	129 (51.6)	198 (60.0)		327 (56.4)
Unknown	41 (16.4)	45 (13.6)		86 (14.8)
HIV-RNA current, cps/mL, n(%)			0.258	
Undetectable, <50	214 (85.3)	292 (88.5)		506 (87.1)
Detectable, 50-200	5 (2.0)	11 (3.3)		16 (2.7)
Detectable, >200	7 (2.8)	6 (1.8)		13 (2.2)
Unknown	25 (10.0)	21 (6.4)		46 (7.9)
Current ARV regimen, n (%)			0.513	
2DR STR	51 (20.3)	58 (17.6)		109 (18.8)
3DR STR	102 (40.6)	164 (49.7)		266 (45.8)
boosted-3DR STR	23 (9.2)	29 (8.8)		52 (8.9)
2DR MTR	35 (13.9)	39 (11.8)		74 (12.7)
3DR MTR	23 (9.2)	24 (7.3)		47 (8.1)
Other	9 (3.6)	8 (2.4)		17 (2.9)
Unknwon	8 (3.2)	8 (2.7)		16 (2.7)
ART satisfaction, n(%)			<0.001	
Yes, completely	151 (60.2)	142 (43.0)		293 (50.4)
Yes, but it can be improved	89 (35.5)	174 (52.7)		263 (45.3)
No, I have issues	8 (3.2)	11 (3.3)		19 (3.3)
No, not at all	0 (0)	2 (0.6)		2 (0.3)
Other/Unknown/Won't answer	3 (1.2)	1 (0.3)		4 (0.7)
Talk about HIV with …, n(%)				
Everyone	32 (12.7)	18 (5.4)	0.002	50 (8.6)
My colleagues	13 (5.18)	8 (2.4)	0.078	21 (3.6)
Majority of friends	35 (13.9)	44 (13.3)	0.831	79 (13.6)
Family	63 (25.1)	99 (30.0)	0.192	162 (27.9)
Partner	88 (35.1)	151 (45.8)	0.009	239 (41.1)
Only some friends	105 (41.8)	188 (57.0)	<0.001	293 (50.4)
Physicians Nurses and nobody else	105 (41.8)	152 (46.1)	0.309	257 (44.2)
Other/Unknown/Won't answer	19 (7.6)	6 (1.8)	0.001	25 (4.3)
Polypharmacy, >5 pills/die, n(%)	52 (21.7)	48 (14.5)	0.051	100 (17.2)
Health problem, n(%)			0.013	
HIV is the most important problem	148 (61.7)	229 (72.5)		377 (67.8)
HIV is not the most important problem	78 (32.5)	68 (21.5)		146 (26.3)
Unknown	14 (5.8)	19 (6.0)		33 (5.9)
With at least 1 comorbidity, n(%)	128 (62.7)	124 (45.1)	<0.001	252 (52.6)

Table2. Single items, domains and total results of 'HIV treatment and disease burden' questionnaire, adapted from *DT Eton et al, Qual Life Res 2017*, according to interest for iLLA

	No interest in iLLA			Interest in iLLA			
	N	(weighted) mean	95% CI		N	(weighted) mean	95% CI		p
Medical information		2.31	2.20	2.42		2.37	2.17	2.57	0.625
Find info on your HIV health status	224	2.21	2.06	2.35	304	2.17	2.06	2.28	0.711
Find info on your HIV treatment	222	2.33	2.19	2.46	294	2.33	2.21	2.45	0.990
Understand eventual changes of your HIV treatment	213	2.32	2.18	2.47	285	2.32	2.20	2.44	0.991
Understand reasons taking a certain HIV treatment	219	2.42	2.27	2.58	294	2.56	2.43	2.69	0.179
Find reliable sources on info on HIV and HIV drugs	222	2.45	2.31	2.59	291	2.70	2.56	2.83	**0.015**
Understand doctor's suggestions	224	2.14	2.01	2.27	302	2.12	2.01	2.23	0.823
HIV medications		1.84	1.45	2.23		2.07	1.77	2.37	0.311
Daily organization	219	1.74	1.59	1.89	292	1.98	1.83	2.12	**0.026**
Taking HIV drugs once a day	218	1.44	1.32	1.57	291	1.76	1.63	1.89	**0.001**
Taking HIV drugs more times a day	117	1.95	1.70	2.19	147	2.18	1.94	2.43	0.188
Supplying of HIV drugs	218	2.22	2.04	2.40	291	2.34	2.17	2.52	0.345
Bother to medications (HIV)		2.43	2.35	2.51		2.83	2.16	3.50	0.227
HIV drug dependence	214	2.41	2.22	2.59	288	3.04	2.86	3.21	**<0.001**
HIV drug side effects	206	2.46	2.26	2.65	279	2.62	2.43	2.80	0.247
Appointments/practices (HIV care)		1.99	1.86	2.12		2.05	1.94	2.15	0.420
Bureaucracy	198	1.92	1.74	2.10	255	2.08	1.91	2.25	0.213
Booking appointments	209	2.15	1.96	2.33	280	2.16	2.00	2.33	0.922
Circularity of health info among HCPs	200	1.95	1.76	2.13	268	1.96	1.81	2.12	0.884
Waiting time for supplying drugs	206	1.95	1.77	2.12	277	2.00	1.83	2.16	0.685
Interpersonal challenges (HIV)		2.07	1.66	2.49		2.28	1.82	2.74	0.465
Dependence in the HIV management from other people	189	2.02	1.83	2.22	256	2.27	2.09	2.45	0.069
Other people who remind you things concerning HIV health	177	1.62	1.46	1.77	241	1.75	1.59	1.91	0.244
Stress in the relationship with others	188	2.21	2.00	2.42	252	2.42	2.24	2.61	0.129
Misunderstanding with others	187	2.44	2.22	2.67	248	2.67	2.47	2.87	0.134
Limitations of role and social activity (HIV)		1.68	1.58	1.77		1.81	1.68	1.94	0.116
Work	188	1.62	1.46	1.78	268	1.75	1.60	1.90	0.236
Family responsibilities	193	1.74	1.56	1.91	269	1.94	1.78	2.10	0.099
Daily activities	202	1.63	1.49	1.78	278	1.84	1.70	1.99	0.051
Free time activities	201	1.66	1.51	1.81	279	1.75	1.61	1.88	0.401
Spending time in the family	202	1.55	1.40	1.70	278	1.59	1.46	1.71	0.708
Travelling	196	1.86	1.68	2.05	274	1.99	1.83	2.16	0.305
Physical and mental exhaustion (HIV)		2.42	2.13	2.71		2.58	2.28	2.88	0.417
Angry	201	2.42	2.25	2.60	278	2.63	2.48	2.77	0.075
Worried	202	2.81	2.66	2.96	278	2.97	2.83	3.11	0.128
Depressed	200	2.53	2.36	2.70	277	2.60	2.46	2.74	0.542
Exhausted	199	2.03	1.86	2.19	277	2.14	2.00	2.29	0.279
Frustrated	199	2.33	2.15	2.50	277	2.57	2.42	2.72	**0.041**
Total HIV therapy burden score		2.09	2.08	2.10		2.24	2.23	2.24	0.109