The prevalence of major comorbidities among people living with HIV in Croatia

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Background:
The burden of HIV care is influenced by AIDS-related and non-AIDS related comorbidities (NAIDSC). All people living with HIV (PLWHIV) in Croatia are treated at the University Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Zagreb. The aim of our study was to provide national period prevalence data of major comorbidities in PLWHIV in Croatia in 2019.

Results:
Of 1168 PLWHIV included into the study, 90.2% (1053/1168) were male, median age was 44.6 (Q1–Q3: 37.6–53.5) with age ≥50 years in 405 (34.7%), main mode of transmission was sex between men (858, 73.5%) and heterosexual contact (239, 20.5%). Median age of those ≥50 was 56.5 years. The overall duration of HIV-1 infection was 7.5 (for those ≥50 years:13.2) years, exposure to antiretrovirals was 6.4 (for those ≥50 years:13.2) years, median age of those ≥50 was 56.5 years. The overall prevalence of major clinical NAIDSC was 15.0% for the total HIV population and 22.2% for those ≥50 years old. The overall prevalence of major clinical NAIDSC was 15.0% for the total HIV population and 22.2% for those ≥50 years old. The prevalence of individual major NAIDSC for the whole HIV population ranged from 0.0 to 3.8% with diabetes being the most frequent.

Materials and Methods:
Included were Croatian citizens/residents ≥18 years who were seen at UHID in 2019 who ever had at least 2 visits >6 months apart. The following comorbidities were analysed: AIDS-defining diseases, myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, invasive cardiovascular procedures (ICPs), cancer both AIDS (ADC) and non-AIDS defining (NADC), end-stage liver disease (ESLD), end-stage renal disease (ESRD), bone fractures and diabetes mellitus. All major comorbidities were expressed as percentages of the total HIV population in care and in those ≥50 years old.

Conclusions:
The overall prevalence of major clinical NAIDSC was 15.0% for the total HIV population and 22.2% for those ≥50 years old. The prevalence of individual major NAIDSC for the whole HIV population ranged from 0.0 to 3.8% with diabetes being the most frequent.