



Narrative medicine as Patient-Reported Outcomes to understand living with HIV from patients' experiences: TMC114FD1HTX4011 - DIAMANTE study

Antinori A¹, Vergori A¹, Esposito V², Carleo A², Andreoni M³, Malagnino V³, Rusconi S⁴, Castelli F⁵, Focà E⁵, Manzillo E⁶, Pizzella T⁶, Cappuccio A⁷, Reale L⁷, Fiorencis A⁷, Marini MG⁷, Portaro M⁸, Mancusi D⁸, Termini R⁸, Uglietti A⁸

1. National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Lazzaro Spallanzani" IRCCS HIV/AIDS Department Rome, Italy, 2. Immunodeficiency and Infectious Diseases of Gender Unit, Department of Infectious Disease and Infectious, Cotugno Hospital, Naples, Italy, 3. Infectious Diseases Clinic, Foundation Policlinico Tor Vergata University Hospital, Rome, Italy, 4. Infectious Diseases Unit, DIBIC Luigi Sacco, University of Milan, Italy, 5. University of Brescia and Spedali Civili General Hospital Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases Brescia Italy, 6. A.O.R.N. Cotugno VIII Divisione di Malattie Infettive Napoli, Italy, 7. Fondazione ISTUD, Milan, Italy, 8. Medical Affairs Department, Infectious Diseases, Janssen-Cilag SpA, Cologno Monzese, Italy

Background

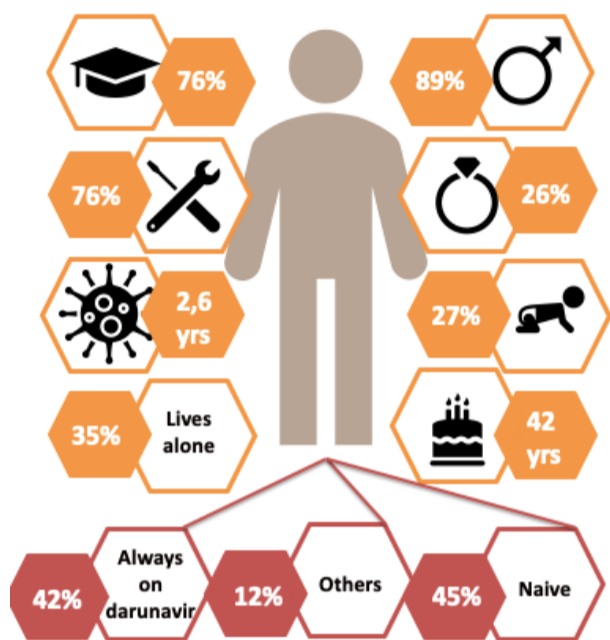
HAART significantly reduced HIV morbidity and mortality, nevertheless its impact on people living with HIV (PLWH) remained less examined at an individual level. Narrative Medicine unveils the more intimate illness aspects investigating patients' narrative, also allowing the comparison of different moments in the living with HIV.

Methods

The non-interventional DIAMANTE study aimed to collect data on PLWH treated with D/C/F/TAF addressing therapy effectiveness and Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs). The study started in June 2018 and involved 18 centers across Italy; enrolled patients were both naïve and previously ART-treated and splitted in 3 groups; then followed up for 48 weeks: Group 1 always treated with DRV-based ART; Group 2 switching to D/C/F/TAF from a non-DRV-based ART and Group 3 starting D/C/F/TAF as naïve. PROs, HIV-Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaires and written narratives were collected at enrollment (V1) and at the last study visit (V4). Narratives were independently analyzed by 2 researchers through NVivo10 software on the basis of content analysis.

Results

The study enrolled 246 PLWH: 137 (56%) have completed V1 narrative, and 86 of them also V4 narratives (35%) so far. We compared the treatment experience in 73 patients having both V1 and V4. At V4, 45/73 (62%) reported improvements, especially at an emotional level (22/73-30%) and at an organizational level (15/73-21%). In Figure 1 we detailed improvements in each group. At V4, 7/73 (10%) reported difficulty coping with HIV condition compared to 16/73 (22%) at V1; 16/73 (22%) considered simpler HIV management (Fig.2). Overall, at V4, 33/73 (45%) patients remarked treatment effectiveness and tolerability; 25% stated current therapy is simpler to follow, while 12/73 (16%) also reported hoping for a definitive cure (Fig.3).



Tab. 1 – Sociodemographics of participants

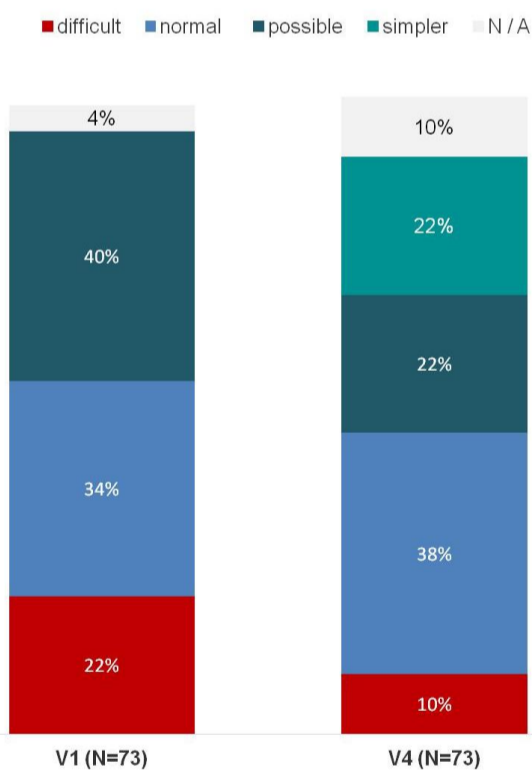


Fig. 2 – Living with HIV: comparing V1-V4

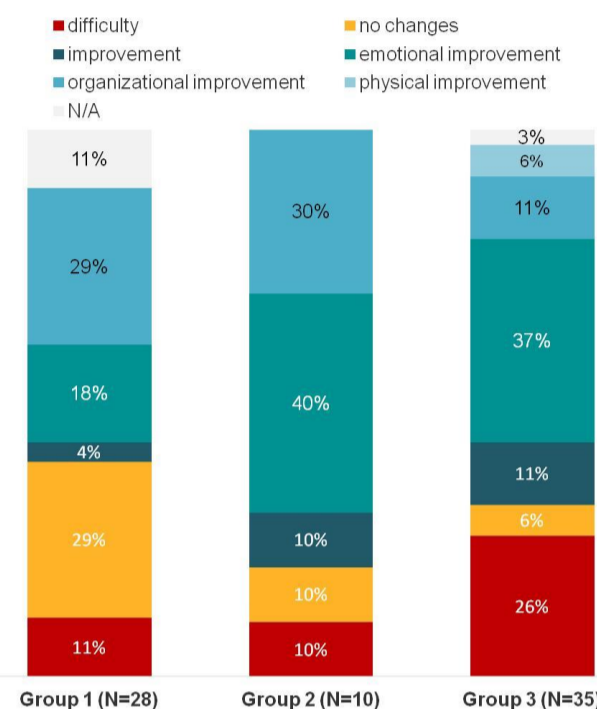


Fig. 1 – After V4 patient reporting

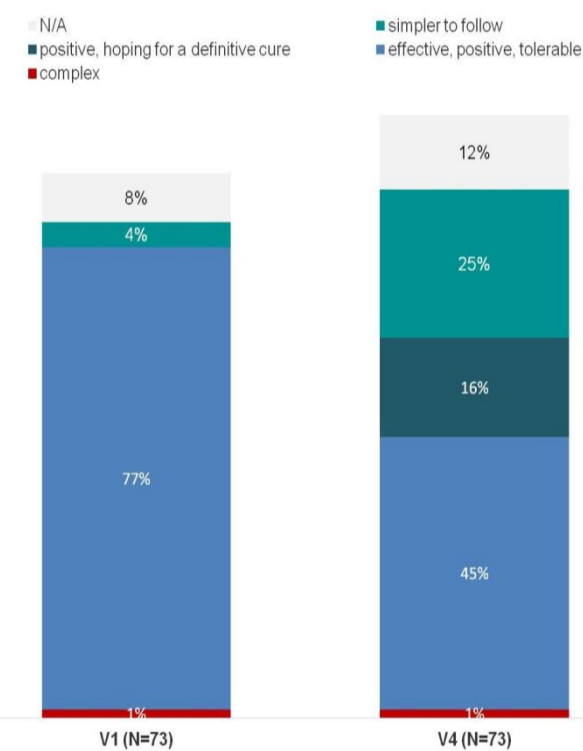


Fig. 3 – HIV current therapy: comparing V1-V4

"I [...] feel taken care of and more protected."

"Only one pill a day allows better management."

"Always saying, 'Why me?'"

"It is effortless since it is the simple ingestion of a tablet."

"Today, living with HIV is not a tortuous path [...], but a feeling of being 'taken care of' and helped to live to the best [...] this co-habitation with the virus"

Conclusion

Compared narratives pointed out how D/C/F/TAF-based therapy had a positive emotional and organizational impact. Therapy allowed greater well-being and better management of the HIV condition.

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