

EARLY HIV DETECTION THROUGH RAPID TESTING IN CATALONIA

PO5/10

R. Mansilla,¹ B. Rifà B,¹ Martínez JL,¹ M. Jané¹

¹ STD & HIV Surveillance, Prevention and Control Unit, Public Health Surveillance Department, Public Health Agency of Catalonia (ASPCAT)

A/e: rosa.mansilla@gencat.cat

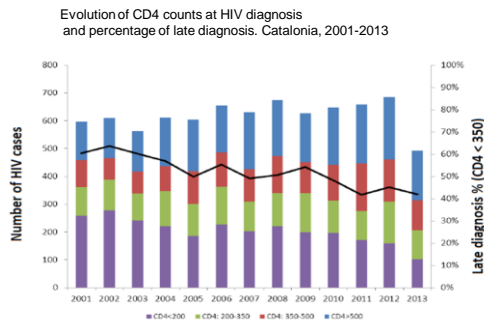
Aims

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV INFECTION

It is estimated that there are 33,000 HIV infected people in Catalonia, and 25% do not know it:

- Number of infected individuals: 9,564 (2001-2013)
- Late diagnosis (< 350 cd4 cells/MI): 42% (2013)

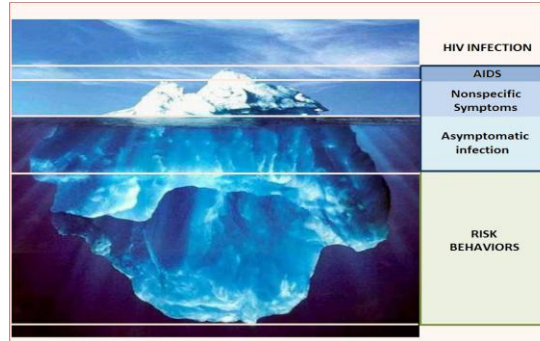
More frequent in heterosexual men and aged over 45.



Data source: CEEISCAT. ASPCAT

People with HIV late diagnosis have a worse prognosis of the disease. Early detection favors the adoption of measures to avoid the transmission of infection to other individuals.

The hidden epidemic of HIV infection



STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE EARLY DIAGNOSIS

- To promote users to ask for HIV detection test (information campaigns)
- To improve health professionals' training in the detection of situations at increased risk for infection, encouraging them to offer VIH detection test if necessary.

- Detect groups most vulnerable to HIV, who do not normally use the health services, to offer them HIV detection test.



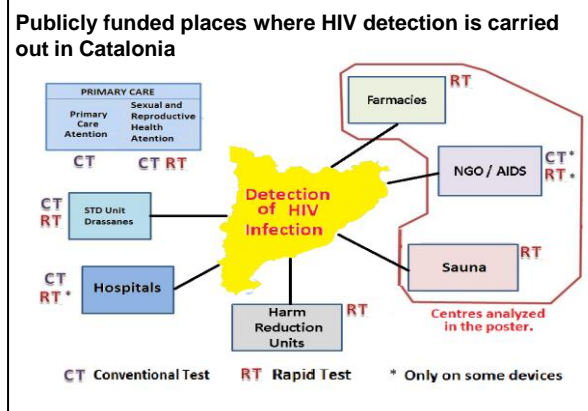
RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTS IN ALTERNATIVE CENTRES TO CONVENTIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND HOSPITALS)

Method

Since October 2006, the ASPCAT offers and finances the necessary material for rapid HIV detection testing in different centres.

Centres where the HIV rapid detection testing was offered during the period analysed:

- 12 NGOs (7 in Barcelona, 1 in Sabadell, 1 in Lleida, 1 in Girona, and 2 in Tarragona).
- 60 pharmacy offices of Catalan provinces (34 in Barcelona, 12 in Tarragona, and 14 in Lleida).
- 5 leisure premises (sauna) in Barcelona City for MSM.



Previous steps to implementation:

1. Efficacy study for HIV detection testing.
2. Feasibility study of intervention through a questionnaire on the acceptance of the rapid HIV test for early detection.
3. Purchase of the necessary material to carry out the test.
4. Training of professionals who are responsible for carrying out the test.



Results

Number of tests carried out and reactive tests by type of centre during the period 2009 - June 2014

Type of centre	Performed tests N.	Reactive tests prevalence			User's profile
		N.	%	Prevalence ratio (CI 95%)*	
NGOs	47,890	1,157	2.4 %	3.5 (3.1 – 3.7)	Men, aged 25-34, mainly MSM
Pharmacies	8,963	94	1 %	1.5 (1.2 – 1.8)	Men, aged 33, mainly heterosexual
Sauna (2009-2013)	2,479	101	4.1 %	8.8 (4.7 – 7.1)	HSH
Total	59,332	1,352	2.3 %		

* Prevalence ratio with regard to prevalence of reactive tests in health care centres (0.7% of reactive tests).

Conclusions

- On the whole, prevalence of infection is higher among individuals being tested in alternative centres than that estimated for the general population (2.3% compared to 0.4%).
- It is also higher with regard to a proportion of reactive results among people who are tested conventionally in public network health care centres (primary health care centres and hospitals; 0.7% in 2012).
- The facility where higher prevalences were detected is sauna (4.1%), followed by NGOs (2.7%). This result is logical, as these premises are mainly frequented by MSM and this group is the most affected by HIV infection.

Therefore:

1. Target group is being reached by this intervention, and their degree of acceptance amongst participating users and centers is very high.
2. Test should be routinely offered from non-conventional facilities, particularly sauna and NGOs, so as to diagnose individuals not normally using the healthcare system.
3. Pharmacies should continue to offer the testing as a mechanism to bring the test closer to population to enable early diagnosis of HIV infection and, therefore, reduce the time between infection and serologic diagnosis.
4. From results, a higher proportion of possible infections is observed in premises used by MSM. This outcome reaffirms the need to continue with efforts addressed to this group and assessment of new strategies to reduce the transmission of infection.
5. In the future, it is planned to extend this strategy to selected healthcare centres to carry out a pilot test during the last quarter of 2014.