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Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic on Antiretroviral Access at a Large Treatment Centre in Lagos, Nigeria

Impact de la Pandémie De SRAS-Cov-2 sur L'accès aux Antirétroviraux Dans un Grand Centre de Traitement à Lagos, au Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has ravaged the world with significant implications on the socio-economic and health status of individuals. Several measures were put in place to curtail the pandemic especially movement restrictions. The effect of this pandemic and the restriction measures could further compound the health needs of PLWHA. This study thus described the trend in access to HIV/AIDS care services before and during the COVID-19 induced lockdown and the possible consequences on their treatment outcome.

METHODS: A secondary analysis of client data was carried out at the HIV clinic of the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research. The sociodemographic and clinical data [type of ART, duration on ART, clinical services 3-months before and during the COVID-19 induced Lockdown] were extracted from the electronic medical records. Data obtained was analyzed using the SPSS version 22.0.

RESULTS: The median age of PLWHA was 45 years (IQR: 39–51), with the predominant age group being 25–49 years (65.4%). The majority were females (68.7%), married (59.5%), had at least secondary education (82.8%), and employed (81.5%). The median duration on ART was 102 months (IQR: 67–138) with the majority on non-Protease Inhibitor based regimen (77.7%). In the 3 months before the lockdown, there was an increase in drug pick-up of approximately 25% over the booked appointment compared to a decline of 40% when the lockdown was enacted.

CONCLUSION: The significant decline in drug pick-up during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic raises the need for measures to ensure continued access to drugs and care among PLWHA. **WAJM 2022; 39(7): 703–707.**

Keywords: SARS-CoV-2, Antiretroviral, COVID-19, Drug pick-up, HIV, Lockdown.

RÉSUMÉ

INTRODUCTION: La pandémie de SRAS-CoV-2 a ravagé le monde avec des implications significatives sur l'état socio-économique et sanitaire. Plusieurs mesures ont été mises en place pour freiner la pandémie, en particulier la restriction des déplacements. L'effet de cette pandémie et les mesures de restriction pourraient encore aggraver les besoins de santé des PVVIH. Cette étude décrit ainsi la tendance des services de soins du VIH / SIDA avant et pendant le verrouillage induit par le COVID-19 et les conséquences possibles sur l'issue de leur traitement.

MÉTHODES: Une étude transversale parmi les PVVIH fréquentant la clinique VIH de l'Institut nigérian de recherche médicale. Les données sociodémographiques et cliniques [type de TAR, durée de la TAR, services cliniques 3 mois avant et pendant le verrouillage induit par COVID-19] ont été extraites des dossiers médicaux électroniques. Les données obtenues ont été analysées à l'aide de la version 22.0 de SPSS.

RÉSULTATS: L'âge médian des PVVIH était de 45 ans (IQR (39-51), le groupe d'âge prédominant étant 25-49 ans (65,4%). La majorité étaient des femmes (68,7%), mariées (59,5%), avaient au moins secondaire (82,8%) et employé (81,5%). La durée médiane des TAR était de 102 mois (IQR: 67-138), la majorité sous traitement sans inhibiteur de protéase (77,7%). Au cours des 3 mois précédant le verrouillage, il y a eu une augmentation de la cueillette de médicaments d'environ 25% par rapport au rendez-vous réservé, comparativement à une baisse de 40% lorsque le verrouillage a été décrété.

CONCLUSION: La baisse significative de la collecte de médicaments pendant la pandémie de SRAS-CoV-2 fait ressortir la nécessité de prendre des mesures pour assurer un accès continu aux médicaments et aux soins parmi les PVVIH. **WAJM 2022; 39(7): 703–707.**

Mots Clés: SRAS-CoV-2, antirétroviral, COVID-19, ramassage de médicaments, VIH, verrouillage.

¹Clinical Sciences Department, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, Yaba, Lagos State, Nigeria. ²College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. *Correspondence: Dr. Abideen Olurotimi Salako, 6, Edmund Crescent, Yaba, Lagos State, 10001, Nigeria. +2348034854995 Email: salako.abideennaheem@gmail.com. Abbreviations: AIDS, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; ART, Anti-Retroviral Therapy; ARVs, Antiretrovirals; CSD, Clinical Sciences Department; HAART, Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy; HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus; IRB, Institutional Review Board; IQR, Inter-Quartile Range; NIMR, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research; PI, Protease Inhibitor; PHEIC, Public Health Emergency of International Concern; PLWHA, People Living With HIV and AIDS; RNA, Ribonucleic Acid; SARS-CoV-2, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2; SPSS, Statistical Package for Social Sciences; UNAIDS, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; WHO, World Health Organisation.