Clinical Surveillance of HIV-Disease (ClinSurv-HIV) in Germany

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Background

For many years the national AIDS-registry and the national HIV case surveillance based at the RKI have been the most important data sources to assess HIV/AIDS epidemic in Germany. But since the AIDS incidence began to decline considerably with the widespread use of antiretroviral therapy (ART) against HIV it became necessary to expand national epidemiological surveillance on all HIV infected persons irrespective of stage of disease being in clinical care in Germany. Since 1999 the RKI collects data to assess epidemiological, diagnostic and therapeutic aspects in consideration of national health policy and control of the epidemiological trends of HIV and AIDS.

Methods

Currently 16 treatment centres biannually provide anonymous data in a standardised format of patients treated since January 1st 1999. Data include information on demographics, routes of infection, laboratory parameters (CD4-cell counts, viral load), HIV- and AIDS related diagnoses, currently 16 treatment centres biannually provide anonymous data in a standardised format of patients treated since January 1st 1999. Data include information on demographics, routes of infection, laboratory parameters (CD4-cell counts, viral load), HIV- and AIDS related diagnoses, as well as death cases. All registered data have been systematically examined by means of a computerised algorithm for plausibility and completeness.

Results (as of June 30th 2003)

Results concerning Clinical Disease Progression

CDC-Stage of Disease at the First Visit (n=5913)

Median of Viral load and CD4-cells at the First Visit (n=5913)

Incidence Density of AIDS-defining diseases/100 person-years

Conclusions

Demographic, clinical or risk factors did not substantially change over time. The incidence density of AIDS defining diseases (CDC-C) has not considerably declined in the last years. The ClinSurv database constitutes the largest basis for long term analysis of HIV patients who are in medical care in Germany providing valuable information about clinical practice outside randomised clinical trials. It serves as a potential resource to facilitate the planning of clinical studies on national and international levels.

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