



Overview of epidemiological, clinical and treatment of HIV infection in Albania in 2016

Infectious Diseases Service, University Hospital Center of Tirana “Mother Theresa”

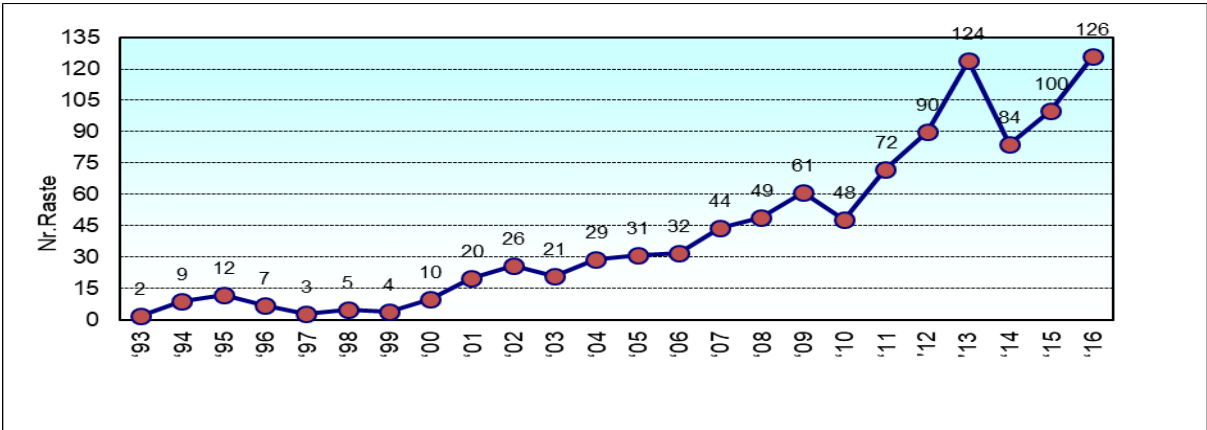
Author: Arsilda Gjataj

Background:

- Albania is part of SEE countries with low prevalence (<0.1%) of HIV infection
- By the end of 2016 in Albania was reported a total number of 1008 HIV diagnosed patients with the predominance of males. The first patient diagnosed with HIV was in 1993.
- 2016 is the year with the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV patients

Methods: This is a retrospective and descriptive cross sectional study based on medical charts data of HIV ambulatory clinic, UHCT, with aim to establish an overview of HIV infection situation in Albania during 2016 . We have used the data of 100 newly diagnosed HIV patients and registered at HIV ambulatory clinic during 2016, out of 126 cases diagnosed that year.

Results: 79% of newly diagnosed HIV cases (100 out of 126) during 2016 were registered and followed up at HIV ambulatory clinic.



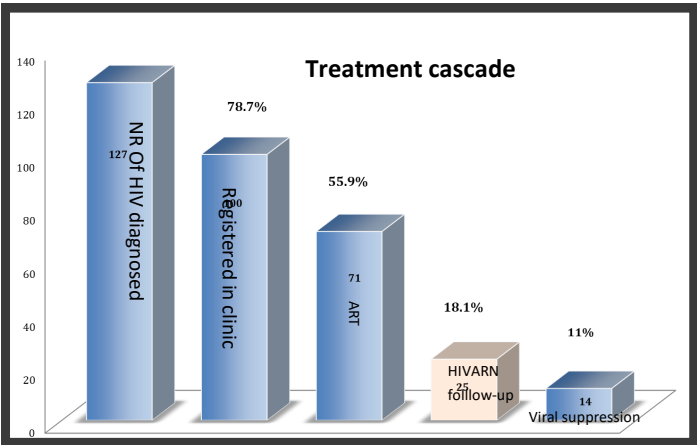
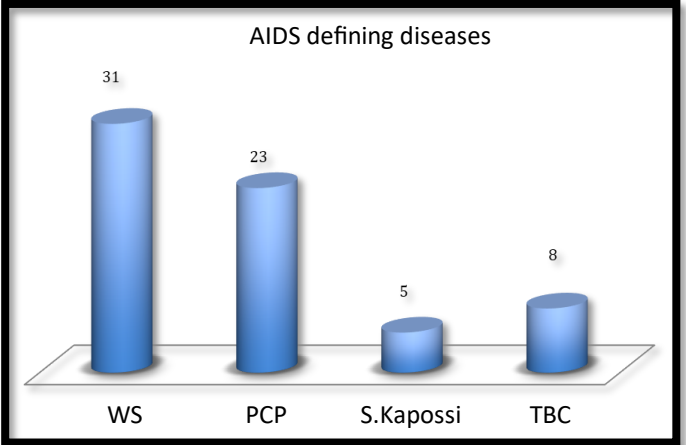
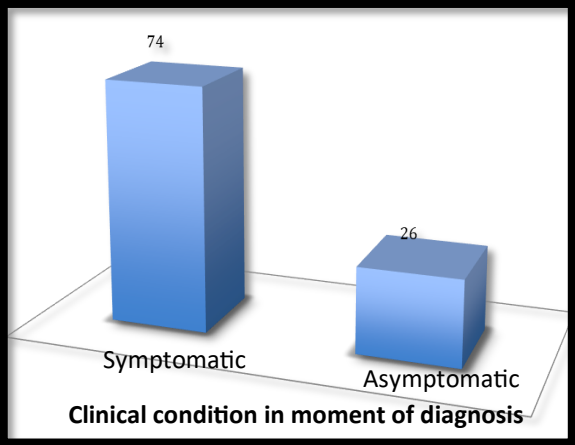
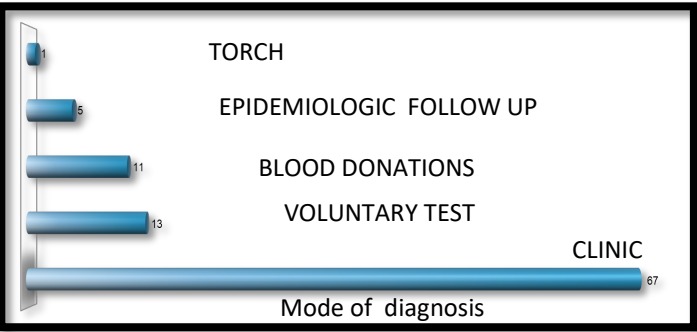
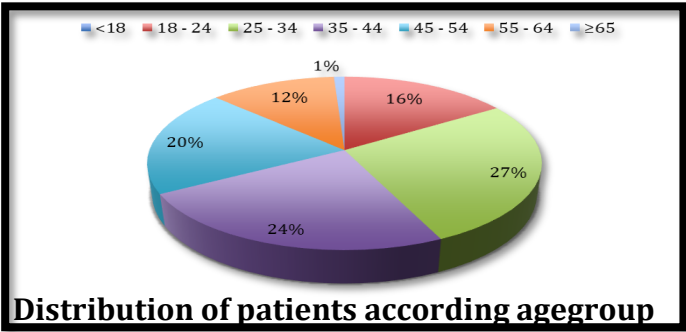
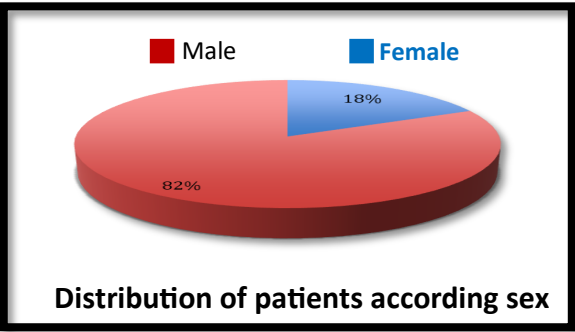
Total number of HIV patients until the end of 2016	1008
Males	722
Females	286
Children under 15 yo	41
Adults (16-24yo)	93
Adults	874

The graphic describes number of new HIV cases during 1993-2016

The epidemiological results of these study:

- Average age in the moment of HIV diagnosis was 39 years old, range 20-75. The most affected agegroup was 25-34 years old (2%)
- Distribution of patients according sex : 82% males and 18% females. 50% of new HIV patients was from the capital of Albania, Tirana
- Clinician initiated testing remain the most important way of HIV diagnosis in Albania and this is the reason for late stage diagnosis
- The most important risk factor is heterosexual transmission. It is raising up the number of HIV patients who declare their MSM status.
- In the moment of HIV diagnosis 74% of patients were symptomatic and 66% of them were in AIDS stage.The most common AIDS defining condition was wasting syndrome in 46.9% of patients
- 71 % of cases started cART, and most used as first line cART was Tenofovir, Emtricitabin and Efavirenz. 80% of patients were adherente to ART
- Viral load monitoring was performed in 25 cases who initiated cART (35%) and was undetectable in 56% of them.

New HIV diagnosed patients for 2016	126
Males	102
Females	24
Children under	1



Conclusions: Although Albania remains a low HIV prevalent country, incident rates are rising. Late and very late presenting cases are high, which reflects the low HIV testing rates. This review of treatment cascade for year 2016 shows that large proportions of PLHIV were lost at each step of the cascade in Albania.