

Do patients treated by outpatient clinics or by private practitioners face differing treatment characteristics and clinical outcomes in Germany?

Results of a comparison on basis of data of the German KompNet cohort

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Background and Objective

- Special situation of clinical care for HIV-positive patients in Germany: outpatient clinics (OC) and specialised private practitioners (PP)
- Assumptions:
 - ~ 30% of patients treated in OC
 - ~ 70% of patients treated by PP
- Lower threshold in PP, therewith different patient populations in OC and PP?
- Differing treatment approaches, therewith different therapy outcomes?
- No sufficient analysis regarding that topic till now

Methods

- Establishment of cohort in 2004
- Inclusion criteria of cohort study:
 - Diagnosed HIV-infection
 - Age ≥ 18 years
 - Signed informed consent
- Documenting sites all over Germany (Fig. 1)
- Eligibility criteria: visit documentation within last 12 month
- Cross-sectional comparison between OC and PP concerning:
 - Patient population:** sex, risk of transmission, migration status, stage of disease, duration since first positive HIV-diagnosis (Tab.1)
 - Therapy standards:** by regimen, treatment interruptions, CD4-cellcount at start of therapy, time since positive diagnosis to start of treatment (Tab.2)
 - Core treatment outcomes:** mean CD4-cellcount/μl, median of viral load above detection limit (Tab.3)
- Populations were compared using χ^2 - and t-tests

Results

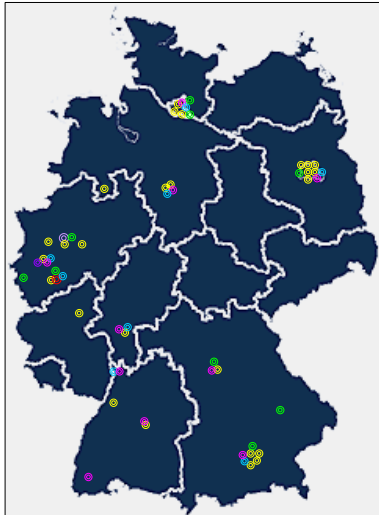


Table 1
Characteristics of patient population, by type of institution

	Type of treating institution		p-value
	Outpatient clinics	Private practises	
Number of sites (abs.)	10	15	
All (abs.)	1,909	4,176	
All (%)	31.4	68.6	<0.01
Sex			
female	18.0	13.3	
male	82.0	86.7	
Age (years)			<0.01
Mean	45.9	44.9	
18-19	0.1	0	
20-24	1.5	1.0	
25-29	3.8	3.9	
30-39	23.9	25.0	
40-49	40.4	45.6	
50-59	19.2	16.1	
60-	11.1	8.4	
Risk of transmission*			
MSM	56.4	70.1	<0.01
heterosexual	25.2	15.7	<0.01
IVDU	7.5	6.8	0.33
HPL	7.6	4.2	<0.01
other	12.3	8.4	<0.01
Migrants	14.7	18.3	<0.01
Stage of disease			<0.01
CDC A	33.2	25.7	
CDC B	35.3	51.5	
CDC C	31.5	22.8	
Duration since first positive HIV-test (mean, years)	9.4	9.8	<0.01

* multiple answers possible

Table 2
Treatment characteristics, by type of institution

	Type of treating institution		p-value	VL <40copies (%)
	Outpatient clinics	Private practises		
All (abs.)	1,909	4,176		
All (%)	31.4	68.6	<0.01	
Therapy status (%)			<0.01	
naive	7.3	9.6		
initially treated	5.5	6.1		
not initially treated	74.0	69.2		
n.a.	13.2	15.1		
Duration after first positive HIV-test till start of treatment (years, N=667)	2.5 (SD: 3.2) N=185	3.7 (SD:4.4) N=482	<0.01	
Distribution of regimen (%)			<0.01	
2 NRTI+ 1 PI+ rtv	34.9	34.7		77.4
2 NRTI + 1 NNRTI	35.6	33.1		88.5
3 NRTI	4.6	5.2		80.5
3 NRTI + 1 PI + rtv	5.5	3.3		74.1
2 PI + rtv	1.6	2.3		64.8
4 NRTI	0.6	2.2		63.5
3 NRTI + 1 NNRTI	2.4	1.1		84.8
other	9.7	11.6		65.9
Treatment interruption (%)	5.1	6.5		8.1
CD ₄ -cellcount at start of ART (N=535)	283 (SD: 157) N=141	286 (SD: 173) N=394		

Table 3
Current CD₄-cellcount and viral load, by type of institution

	Type of treating institution		p-value
	Outpatient clinics	Private practises	
All (abs.)	1,909	4,176	
All (%)	31.4	68.6	<0.01
CD ₄ -cellcount			
Mean (abs.)	524	527	
< 200 (%)	7.8	6.0	
200 - 350 (%)	19.0	18.4	
> 350 (%)	73.2	75.6	
Viral load			<0.01
Mean (abs.)	3,087	3,559	
< detection limit (%)	76.4	74.9	

Figure 1
Composition of documenting sites of the KompNet cohort

Conclusion

- Composition of cohort reflects well proportion of patients assumed as to be treated by OC and PP in Germany
- Patient populations differed regarding sex, risk of transmission, migration status, CDC-stage
- Different threshold of types of institutions, different access situation?
- Treatment standards and outcomes very similar, with exception of duration after first positive test till start of ART

- Important information as to choice of type of treating institutions, both for patients and counsellors

Contact

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