The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Romania

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- Total HIV/AIDS cases 1985-2017: 22980
- People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA): 15009
- New HIV/AIDS cases in 2017: 692
- Patients on cART/post-exposure prophylaxis: 12247

Current challenges in the Pediatric Cohort

- Jul. 1989- Dec. 1990:
  - 1090 pediatric AIDS cases identified
  - 97% <3 years;
  - 62% living in institutions
- The largest 27-30 year-old cohort in Europe
- An estimated 10,000 children infected
- Sex-ratio 1:1
- F1 subtype almost 100%
- Long-term survivors (~6000)
- Multiple ART regimens (10-15)
  - Salvage tx
  - ARV toxicities
  - "Therapeutic exhaustion"

MTCT Demographic changes

- Most MTCT cases occur in mothers with a recent HIV diagnosis as a result of intravenous drug use or sexual transmission.
- High national ART coverage in mothers (95%) and infants (99%)
- Avoidance of breastfeeding is achieved in 90% of cases (studies)
- Caesarean sections remains the measure with the lowest uptake (between 60-80% in various studies)

Intravenous drug users – high incidence, co-morbidities, resistance

- 2016 national drug report:
  - 20 937 high risk opioid users
  - 1 480 of which receive opioid substitution
- 2017 national HIV data:
  - 15.31% of IDUs were infected with HIV
  - Most are men (85%) aged 20-40 years old (60%)
  - Around half (49%) use heroin in various combinations
  - 60% were late presenters
  - 44% were diagnosed with advanced HIV/AIDS

Reaching the 90-90-90 UNAIDS targets

- Increased HIV testing, diagnosis and ART coverage
- High frequency of HIV-1 F1 subtype (>80%)
- Other subtypes: C and B in MSMs, G and B in IDUs
- Most ARV drugs are universally available in Romania recommended irrespective of CD4 T cell count since 2011
- Low transmitted drug resistance (14.75%)
- Small individual studies hinted at a potentially higher rate of major mutations in treatment-naïve patients
- In a study on 350 patients with multiple ART regimens around half displayed major NRTI mutations

Bibliography

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