

Editorial: Evaluation of Current HIV Contributions toward Progress in HIV management

HIV infection is not merely a contagious disease, it is a multi-aspect health related issue which needs local and global contributions in order to reach the targets in HIV management. The objective of this Special Issue in "*Journal of Therapy and Management in HIV Infection*" is to highlight the progress and evaluation of HIV related health issues.

The articles presented in this issue address:

1. To measure the prevalence of ARV side effects in pregnant women and their infants and also evaluate drug efficacy in decrease of child HIV infection, Jozani et al. conducted a study on information of 40 files of pregnant HIV positive women. Most common drugs used for HIV infection were assessed and multiple adverse effects were evaluated. Based on findings of this study, having observed the safety of ARV in pregnancy period and at birth especially in PMTCT group, ARV treatment or PMTCT in pregnancy period is advised.
2. To evaluate preclinical and the clinical safety and efficacy of an HIV related drug (Faramir) SeyedAlinaghi et al., conducted a phase II clinical trial. Throughout the study, adherence to treatment, clinical observations, adverse effects, viral load and CD4 counts were constantly measured. Based on the results, although there was evidence supporting the efficacy and safety of Faramir, implementation of phase III clinical trial is recommended.
3. To characterize factors affecting the acceptance or decline in HIV testing among Iranian patients, Bayanolhagh et al., conducted a cross sectional survey in three different health care centers on individuals unaware of their HIV status. Multiple factors were identified to have association with willingness to do HIV test; increasing knowledge about HIV testing, its availability, and keeping costs low can expand the desire to use the test and ultimately prevent the spread of HIV through lack of knowing one's serostatus and lack of treatment. It is suggested to consider the Emergency departments in rural cities as target places to identify HIV infection at high-risk groups.
4. To calculate the direct and indirect costs of HIV/AIDS, Hajiabdolbaghi et al., conducted a cross sectional study in the Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) center of Imam Khomeini Hospital, 2010-2011. They have evaluated the cost in categories such as health-therapeutic, training, research, services and cost in total. According to the results of this study, the distribution of money spent on HIV/AIDS in the Imam Khomeini VCT center is relatively similar to low and middle income countries and training and research need more considerations.

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