

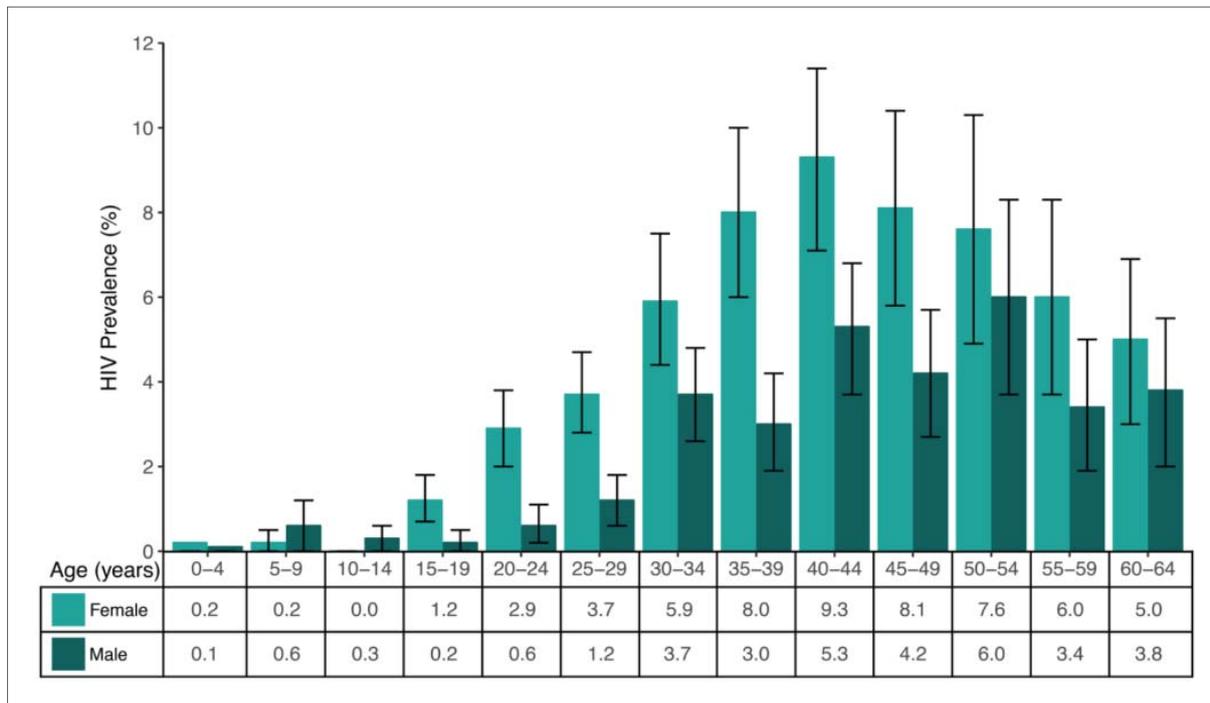
Project Title: Improving management of age- and time-related complications in HIV patients in Cameroon

Context

With the availability of antiretroviral therapy (ART), the mortality of HIV infection has decreased leading in a changing spectrum of patients issues and patients needs. From the era of AIDS and opportunistic infections, patients now live with a chronic disease and face several time-related complications associated both to virus, immunological phenomenon and treatments. This change of spectrum is effective for cardiovascular diseases, renal diseases, osteoporosis, neurocognitive disorders...

Associated to the reduced mortality, people living with HIV (PLWHIV) are living longer. Aging is a progressive loss of physiological integrity, with heterogeneous organ decline, associated with decreased ability to face stress, increased frailty, and increased prevalence of age-related comorbidities. HIV infection has been shown to fast this natural evolution. Aging is well recognized as a future challenge. Accelerated aging lead to precocious disease occurrence in PLWHIV in comparison to age-matched HIV-uninfected controls.

These time-related and age-related issues are well documented in high income setting, and more and more in low income countries where live the majority of PLWHIV. In Cameroon ART is available since the late 1990s. A recent population-based study show a considerable proportion of patients older than 50 years.



The population-based Cameroon HIV Impact Assessment - CAMPHIA

To improve management of time- and age-related complications screening and early care are the cornerstone. The model of integrated HIV care has been shown to improve patients health outcomes. This include availability of specialists and clinical pathways.

At the Yaoundé General Hospital, treatment for HIV infection is available since the early years 2000. The number of patients receiving treatment has greatly evolved. Patients become old and have long therapeutic history (more than 15 years for some). In absence of a devoted geriatrics team onsite, these "survivors" face medical issues related to ageing, in addition to HIV-related diseases and ART-related complications.

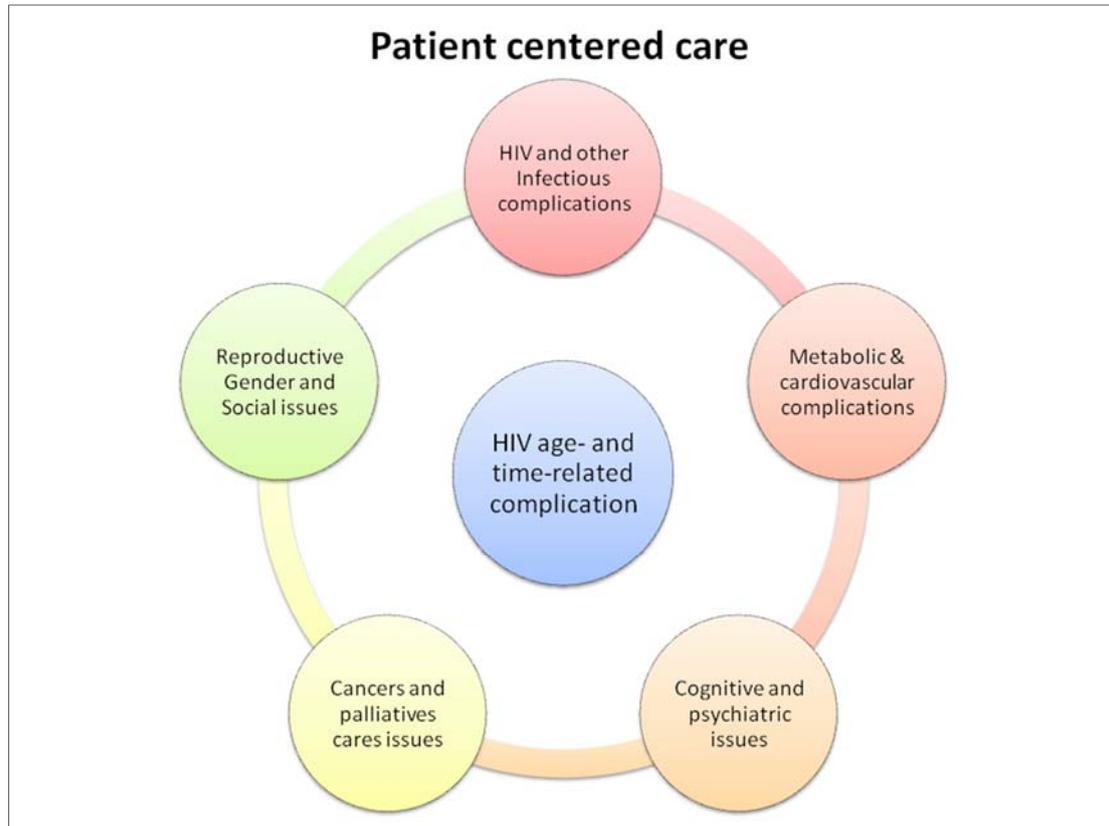


Project description

This project aims to build a multidisciplinary platform for the management of age- and time-related complications of HIV infected patients in Yaoundé Cameroon. This platform will serve as referral for other HIV clinics in the city and beyond.

Based on international guidelines for the management of HIV infection, we will adapt algorithms for elder patients in this low and middle income country; and propose effective clinical pathway for the integrate management of these patients.

Moreover, using open source software, we will help the HIV clinic to develop an electronic data collection system to facilitate clinical work, improve clinical monitoring and develop operational research capacities.



Partnership

The **Yaoundé General Hospital** built in 1985 is a 250 beds tertiary care teaching hospital in the capital city of Cameroon. It offers a wide range of medical care, including an infectious disease unit, a HIV clinic. The hospital require other health institutions to provide complete service to patients such as neuro-cognitive evaluation, geriatrician, HIV resistance testing.

The **Jura Bernois Hospital** is a regional hospital in Switzerland, providing proximity care. It holds many specialists involved in care to HIV patients and elder patients, with integrated clinical pathway non biased by (high resource setting) academic activities. Moreover, network and affiliation of JBH specialists to academic hospitals (Bern, Lausanne and Geneva University Hospitals), provide a strong scientific input both at operational and research levels.

The partnership will link two hospital of comparable size. HJH is therefore the ideal partner to share clinical experience and build clinical pathway to improve efficiency of the available resources. Most of the specialists involved from HJB hospital have good knowledge about Cameroon. Moreover the practice is quite similar in term of available resource, at least more than an university hospital in this high level country.



Timeframe

From March 2019 to June 2019

Contact

Contact in Switzerland	Contact in Cameroon
<p>Dr Alain KENFAK</p> <p>Jura Bernois Hospital Service of Internal medicine.</p> <p>Email: alain.kenfak@hjbe.ch</p> <p>Tel: +41 78 865 3614</p>	<p>Dr Victor SINI</p> <p>Yaoundé General Hospital Head of HIV Clinic</p> <p>Email: victorsini@yahoo.com</p> <p>Tel: +237 670 46 57 88</p>

The ESTHER Switzerland programme (<https://www.esther-switzerland.ch/>) is implemented by the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) of the University of Bern, on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC).