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CANCER INCIDENCE AMONG HIV-INFECTED MEN AND WOMEN IN SOUTHERN EUROPE.

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BACKGROUND: Studies from North America, Australia and Europe have evidenced an excess of several cancer types, in addition to KS and NHL, among HIV-infected individuals. For some cancer sites, however, the results were not consistent. To assess the spectrum of malignancies associated with HIV infection in Southern Europe, longitudinal data from a cohort of HIV seroconventers and from two HIV seroprevalent cohorts in Italy and France were combined and analysed.

METHODS: 5,281 HIV-positive men (3,422 IDU, 1,365 homosexuals and 494 heterosexuals) were followed up for 19,609 person-years (PY), and 2,141 HIV-positive women (1,340 IDU and 801 heterosexuals) were followed-up for 9,070 PY. The number of observed cases was compared with the expect one, based on age- and sex-specific incidence rates in the general population of Italy or France. Age-standardised incidence ratios (SIR), and their 95% confidence intervals (CI) were computed.

RESULTS: Among HIV-positive males, significantly increased SIR emerged for liver cancer (SIR=18.6), Hodgkin's disease (HD) (SIR=11.2), and lung cancer (SIR=3.6). When the totality of non-AIDS-defining cancers was considered, a 2-fold higher risk emerged (95% CI: 1.4-2.9). Among women, a particularly elevated risk for invasive cervical cancer (ICC) was evident among IDU (SIR=16.7, 95% CI: 5.2-28.2).

CONCLUSION: These results confirm previous studies showing an excess of HD and ICC among HIV-positive individuals, and they suggest that liver and lung cancers' risks may also be increased as a consequence of HIV.

Keywords: AEGIS, Incidence, Neoplasms, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, HIV Infections, Europe, HIV Seropositivity, Cervix Neoplasms, Risk Factors, Hodgkin Disease, Italy, Liver Neoplasms, France, Risk, North America, Australia, Human, Female, Male, epidemiology, AIDS

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