

PE60

Patient-reported receptiveness to a HIV therapeutic vaccine

D. Zucman¹, S. Dimi¹, C. Lalanne², T. Prazuck³, L. Hocqueloux⁴, E. Mortier⁵, I. Auger-Aubin², C. Majerhold¹, O. Chassany², M. Duracinsky²

¹Centre Medico Chirurgical Foch, Suresnes, France, ²Hôpital Saint Louis, Paris, France, ³Centre Hospitalier Régional d'Orleans, Orleans, France, ⁴Centre Hospitalier Régional d'ORLEANS, Orleans, France, ⁵CHU Louis Mourier, Colombes, France

Background: There is currently intense research into the development of an HIV therapeutic vaccine. In general, vaccinations are not well accepted by a wider part of the French population. The understanding about acceptance of a therapeutic vaccine in PLWHA remains limited.

Methods: Cross-sectional study including HIV-1 infected patients aged 18-75 years in 3 French hospitals. Mixed methods were used. Quantitative study questionnaires: PROQOL-HIV, Brief IPQ-R, a specific questionnaire on vaccination. Qualitative study: semi structured interviews recorded, content analysis of patients' transcripts with a predefined framework.

Results: 220 patients participated, including: 70% men (49% MSM), 10% IDU, 31% migrants. Mean age was 49 years [40-57]. Of 96% of patients taking ART, 92% had undetectable viral load. Socio-demographic characteristics and responses to IPQ-R and PROQOL-HIV were representative for PLWHA in France. Vaccination coverage for hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus and polio was high 75%. Some knowledge about a therapeutic vaccine was reported in 54% of patients. 53% of patients considered that acceptable therapeutic vaccine would fully suppress virus. ART interruption for at least 3-6 months would be acceptable for 40% and 44% hoped for definitive ART cessation. Expected benefits were: relief of constraints due to ART in 93% and relief of transmission fears in 84%. Although 30% patients were skeptical about public information on vaccines, 91% would accept a therapeutic vaccine if it was found to be effective and prescribed by their specialist. The willingness to participate to a vaccine clinical trial was 74%. Fear of adverse event was frequently expressed (71%). Most patients (65%) were confident that such a vaccine will be found in the future. Patients having better knowledge about vaccines had better acceptability. Twenty individual interviews (13 men / 7 women) were conducted. Patients concerns were largely focused on the route and timing of administration and on potential efficacy. Qualitative data showed the same trends, with great hope for the therapeutic vaccine.

Conclusions: This study explored the perception of therapeutic vaccine by a representative sample of PLWHA in France. They are receptive to the idea of receiving a therapeutic vaccine and the confidence in their treating clinician is a key factor of acceptability.