



Point-of-care tests can save lives: screening patients with advanced HIV-disease in Conakry, Guinea

Ismael ADJAHO, Leonard NDAYISENGA, Joseph-Désiré Yuma, Abdourahimi Diallo, BOUTOUABA C. Samy, Fabien KABONGO, Oussen W Tiemtoré, Petros Isaakidis

What is advanced HIV disease?

- Advanced HIV disease = HIV clinical WHO stage 3 or 4 or CD4 count ≤ 350 cells/ μl
- 35% hospital deaths are attributed to advanced HIV disease



Guinea

- HIV prevalence : low HIV prevalence (1.7%)
- Very low ART coverage.
- A high number of HIV / AIDS-related deaths.
- TB contributes 2/3 of HIV related deaths, and late presentation is a contributing factor.
- Cryptococcal meningitis (neurological disease) is also a leading cause of death





2 point of care tests

TB LAM for Tuberculosis.

CRAG for Cryptococcal meningitis
(neurological disease)



Protocol of TB-LAM & CRAG

HIV project Conakry started use of these tests in January 2015 for:

➤ **Systematic screening:**

- HIV + patients (Pre- ART or on ART)
- CD4 counts < 100 cells/ul
- Highly suspicious TB patients for TB LAM.
- Symptomatic for Cryptococcal meningitis

❑ **Objective:** is to document uptake and yield of screening using TB LAM & CRAG among advanced HIV patients

❑ **Methodology**

- Retrospective routine data analysis
- January 2015 to June 2016

Results

- Patients with CD4 <100 cells / ml: 616
- Uptake of TB LAM: 174 (**28 %**)
 - ✓ TB LAM positive : 32 %
 - ✓ Rapid initiation of treatment
- Uptake of CRAG : 366 (**59%**).
 - ✓ CRAG positive: 4%
 - ✓ All initiated on treatment

WHY DID WE NOT TEST EVERYONE?

- Bias towards testing clinical suspicion rather than CD4<100
- Not endorsed by Guinea Ministry of Health.
- Staff not properly informed
- Different sample as for CD4 counts;
- Sometimes in different health facilities , depends whether CD4 was done at referral or not.

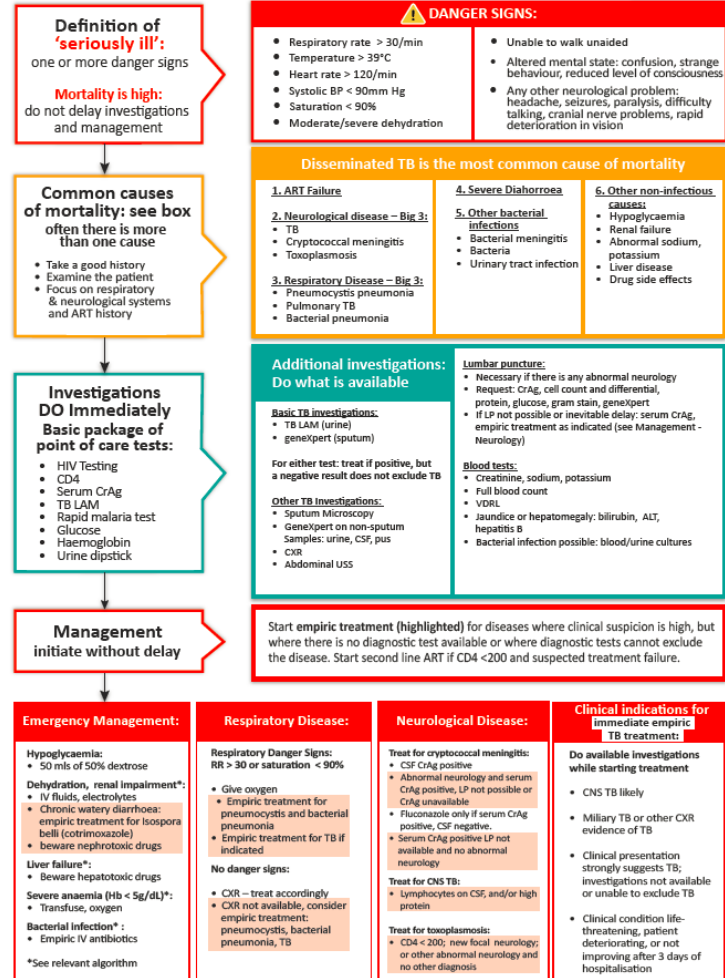
WHY WAS TB LAM POSITIVITY HIGH?

Selection bias?

Active screening of TB = used as a diagnostic tools in high suspicion of TB, with no productive cough instead of systematic screening tool for population with CD4 <100.

Conclusion

- MSF Guinea is among the first to implement TB LAM & CRAG as POC tests for advanced HIV
- Using these POC tests for the main killers (TB, Crypto) of advanced HIV patients fosters early treatment which can save lives
- These POC must be included as standards





Operational implications

- POC depend on CD4 counts
- Should we screen systematically all stages 3 & 4 for TB and CRAG?
- Advocacy for POC CD4.

ACKNOWLEDGE

- Project SIDA Conakry team
- SAMU colleagues
- LuxOr team
- Cell 1