



Ref : CERMA2009/E4

Correlates of adherence to antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected children in Lomé, Togo, West Africa

J. Polisset^a, F. Ametonou^{a,(b)}, E. Arrive^a, A. Aho^a, F. Perez^a

a Institut de Santé Publique, d'Epidémiologie et de Développement (ISPED), Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2, Case 11, 146 Rue Leo Saignat, 33076, Bordeaux Cedex, France

(*) membre du Centre d'Etude et de Recherche Médecins d'Afrique (CERMA), B.P. 45, Brazzaville, Congo

AIDS Behaviour, vol 13, n°1, pp 23-32 (2009)

Abstract

We assessed pediatric adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and examined associated factors among children in Togo, West Africa. Structured interviews of caregivers of consecutively enrolled HIV-infected children receiving ART in three HIV/AIDS care centers in Lomé, Togo were conducted. Child perfect adherence reflected caregivers' report of no antiretroviral drug doses missed neither in the past 4 days nor in the month before the interview. A total of 74 ART-treated children were included (median age 6 years). Of these, 42% of caregivers declared perfect adherence. In univariate analyses, the major factors relating to child non-adherence were: being female, living in an individual setting (vs. compound with enlarged family), receiving other ART than an NNRT-based regimen, drug regimens with six pills/spoons or more per day, caregiver other than biological parent, caregiver not declaring HIV-status, not participating to support groups and having perceived difficulty of antiretroviral (ARV) administration. In multivariate analysis, female gender, living in an individual setting, receiving other than NNRTI-based regimen and caregivers' perceived difficulty of ARV administration remained independently associated with the reported child's non-adherence. These data show low rates of perfect adherence to ART in children in West Africa, influenced by child and caregiver characteristics and suggest a need for counseling and education interventions as well as continuous psychological and social support.

Keywords:

antiretroviral therapy; children; adherence; HIV/AIDS; Lomé; Togo