

Realities of Reduction of Stavudine use by
HIV Caregivers in Resource Limited Settings

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Background

- Stavudine is no longer recommended in first-line treatments due to its intrinsic toxicities and side effects. The current goal in Nigeria is to drive Stavudine use to 3% nationwide.
- The objective of this study is to determine the factors amongst HIV care givers which may hinder initiating or switching to less toxic nucleoside analogues whenever possible.



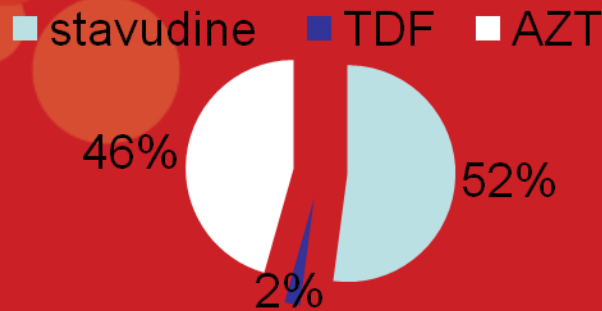
Methods

- A cross sectional descriptive study was designed. Sample size was total population of HIV Caregivers in 34 health facilities nationwide currently supported by Hygeia Foundation, an indigenous NGO, which is sub- recipient implementing objective 1 of Global fund round 5 grant in Nigeria.
- They responded to a set of questions focusing on prescribing habits of health care workers in the use of Stavudine based regimen
- 50 questionnaires were sent out but 44 were returned and analyzed

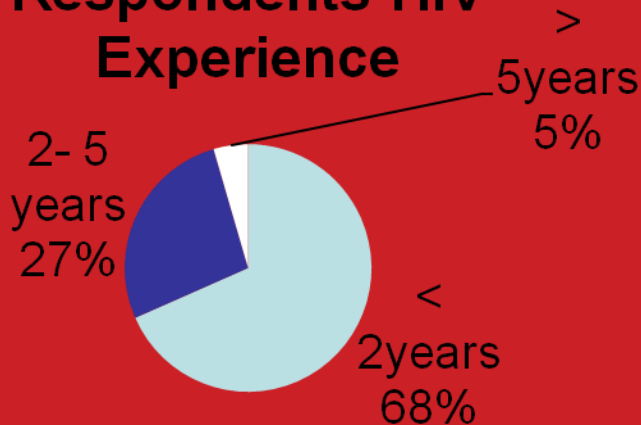


Results

choice of First line regimen



Respondents HIV Experience



- By experience in HIV care setting, 68.2% (30/44) had < 2years, 27.3% (12/44) had 2 - 5 years while 4.5% had > 5years. Stavudine based regimen remains first choice for 52.3% (23/44) of them, AZT for 45.5% (20/44) and TDF for 2.3% (1/44). Reasons including Stavudine being available in FDC was given by 52.3% (23/44) while its having better adherence was given by 36.4% (16/44). Other reasons include that TDF and AZT were saved for second line was mentioned by 15.9 % (7/44), current large stock of Stavudine was given by 11.4% (5/44) and inability to sustain possible alternative drug option TDF if donors leave was mentioned by 6.8% (3/44).

Conclusion

- The continued use of Stavudine is still high in certain regions. There is a need to have a structured guideline for phase out of Stavudine use in resource limited settings.

The factors elucidated above would be important in guiding the design of a national framework to achieve this.

