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HIV-SEROPREVALENCE AMONG PATIENTS OF A WEST-GERMAN INNER-CITY GENERAL PRACTICE

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OBJECTIVES: 1.) To screen selected subpopulations among patients of a general practice as an economical alternative to untargeted mass-screening. 2.) Early detection of HIV-infection among high- and low-risk groups. 3.) To counsel and treat these otherwise unrecognized HIV-carriers as a contribution to the containment of the epidemic.

METHODS: 175 patients (p) were studied by HIV-AG, -AB and WB-Assay during 2/87 and 10/88. 130 p presented with symptoms comparable to those of the acute retroviral syndrome, 27 p were risk group members and 13 were without known risk.

RESULTS: 9/175 (5,1%) of all tested subjects were AB+, 0 AG+. 4/9 (44,5%) were IVDA, 3/9 (33,3%) were heterosexuals without contact to classical high risk groups. 2/9 (22,2%) were homo- or bisex. men. 5/9 (55,6%) were newly diagnosed including all heterosexuals of whom 1 man was infected by a female prostitute. IVDA were diagnosed in later stages of the disease than the others. The male/female ratio among infected p was 2,2:1. In 1988, there was a 2.2-fold number of infected p compared to 1987. All social contact cases of infected p were AB-.

CONCLUSIONS: Primary care physicians can detect, counsel and treat a lot of unrecognized AB+ p by screening selected groups of p. There is evidence for heterosex. HIV-spread among the general population. Prostitution is expected to be an important factor in this process.

Keywords: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, Family Practice, Female, HIV Infections, HIV Seropositivity, HIV Seroprevalence, Humans, Male, Mass Screening, Prostitution, Substance Abuse, Intravenous

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