Epidemiologic features of HIV cases diagnosed in Portugal during the period 2005-2014

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The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the etiologic agent causing the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The number of individuals infected with HIV and its impact, led the disease to become a public health problem in Portugal and in the rest of the world over the last 30 years. A fact that should be taken into consideration is that not all individuals who are HIV positive will necessarily develop immunodeficiency. This study aims to describe the epidemiological characteristics of diagnosed HIV cases in Portugal between the years 2005 and 2014. It is a study of cross-sectional cohort and the data were obtained from online platforms available in the Department of Infectious Diseases and the INSA National Programme for HIV/AIDS Infection. As eligible criteria, it was took in consideration every individual who has been diagnosed as a carrier of the virus in the Portuguese territory. Between the years 2005-2014, 18,564 individuals were diagnosed, with 5,656 deaths. During the period of the study, there was a reduction in the number of cases diagnosed in the laboratory (2008-2014). As for gender, 68.5% (n=12,713) of diagnosed cases referred to males and 31.5% (n=5,851) corresponded to the female gender. There was a higher number of cases diagnosed in the age group between 30 to 39 years, 31.0% (n=5,755), followed by the age group between 40-49 years, 24.4% (n=4,538). Concerning the initial state classification, 63.0% (n=11,704) of diagnosed cases were asymptomatic carriers, followed by patients who developed AIDS, 23.0% (4,275). Regarding the mode of transmission, 60.6% (n=11,254) of the cases corresponded to consumers of intravenous drugs, followed by cases of sexual, homosexual or bisexual, with 21.3% (n=3,972). In recent years, the creation of new specialized community-based structures in the prevention, as well as the awareness of health professionals, shows that the rate of new diagnoses gradually decreased since 2008.

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