




# Persistent anal hrHPV as biomarker for predicting HGAIN in HIV-infected MSM

E. Marra<sup>1</sup>, M.L. Siegenbeek van Heukelom<sup>2,3</sup>, M. van Dijk<sup>1</sup>, J.M. Prins<sup>3</sup>, S.H. Mooij<sup>1,4</sup>, M. Nieuwenhuis<sup>1</sup>, C.J.L.M. Meijer<sup>5</sup>, P.J.F. Snijders<sup>5</sup>, A. King<sup>4</sup>, A. van Eeden<sup>6</sup>, W. Brokking<sup>6</sup>, H.J.C. de Vries<sup>1,2,4</sup>, M.F. Schim van der Loeff<sup>1,7</sup>  emarra@ggd.amsterdam.nl

Department of Infectious Diseases, Public Health Service Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 2. Department of Dermatology, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; 3. Department of Internal Medicine, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; 4. Centre for Infectious Disease Control, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven, the Netherlands; 5. Department of Pathology, Vrije Universiteit-University Medical Center (VUmc), Amsterdam, the Netherlands; 6. Department of Internal Medicine, DC klinieken, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; 7. Center for Infection and Immunity Amsterdam (CINIMA), Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

## Background

High-grade AIN (HGAIN) is a precursor stage of anal cancer and is diagnosed with high-resolution anoscopy (HRA) and histopathology. HRA is a time-consuming, specialized procedure which can be burdensome for the patient. Therefore, it would be beneficial to pre-select those at high risk of HGAIN.

## Objectives

- Objective 1: To study if persistent anal hrHPV infection predicts the risk of HGAIN among HIV-positive MSM.
- Objective 2: To study if the HPV-type of a persistent anal hrHPV infection predicts the presence of HGAIN.

## Conclusions

Based on this longitudinal study we showed that persistent anal hrHPV infection(s) are predictive of HGAIN. Specifically

- A persistent anal high-risk HPV infection(s) of at least one HPV type was found to be a predictor of HGAIN.
- A persistent HPV-16 and persistent HPV-35 infection were significant predictors of HGAIN.

However, the sensitivity of persistent hrHPV infections as a predictor for HGAIN is too low to be used as a triage tool for HIV-positive MSM prior to HGAIN screening.

## Results

Among 195 MSM (median age 50 years [IQR]:45-56) 60 (31%) were diagnosed with HGAIN. In total, 132 participants (68%) had a persistent infection with at least one hrHPV-type, of whom 45 (34%) were diagnosed with HGAIN.

Table 1: Characteristics of the study population (N=195)

	N (195)	%
Median age in years [IQR]	50	[45 – 56]
Smoking status (at first HRA)		
Never smoked	64	33%
Ever smoked / quit smoking	64	33%
Current smoking	43	22%
Median nadir CD4 cell count (cells/ $\mu$ l) [IQR]	235	[150 – 320]
Nadir CD4 cell count (cells/ $\mu$ l)		
<200	75	39%
200-349	80	42%
$\geq$ 350	37	19%
Persistent infection of at least one HPV type	132	68%
HGAIN	60	31%

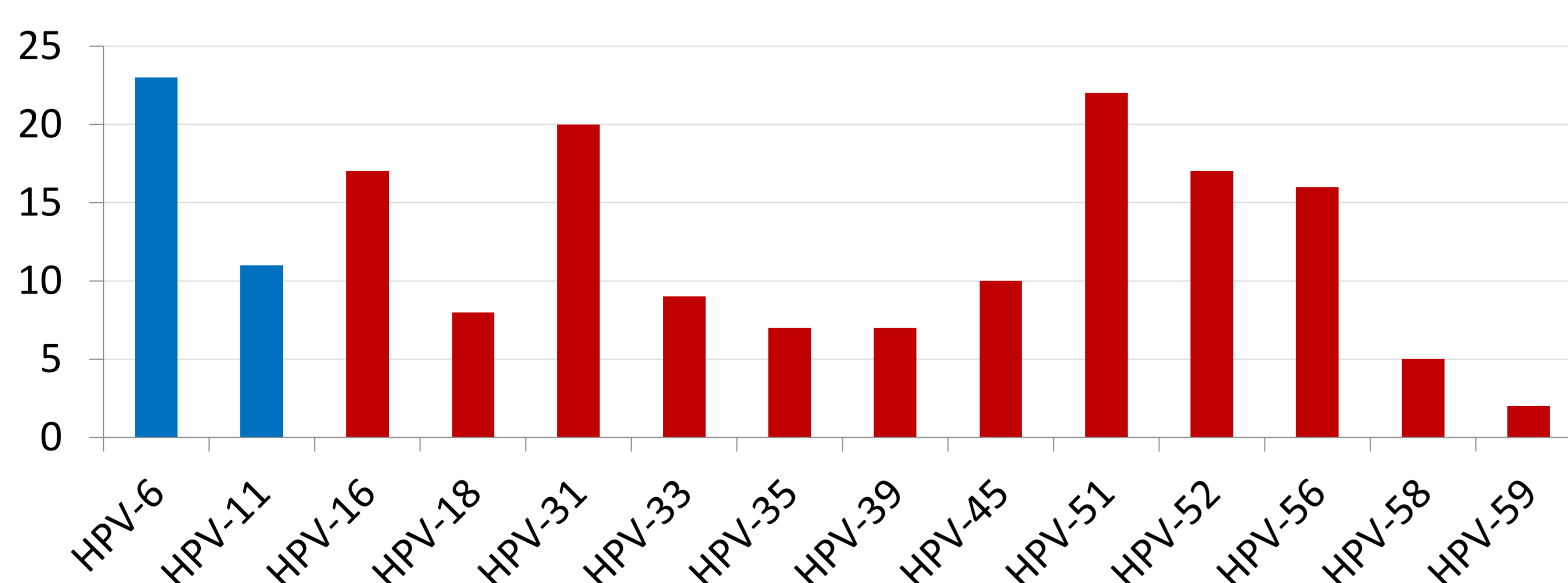


Figure 1: Number of participants with a persistent HPV infections per HPV-type

Table 2: Univariable and multivariable logistic regression of persistent type-specific HPV infection with HGAIN (N=195)

HPV type	Univariable logistic regression		Multivariable logistic regression		
	OR	95% CI	aOR	95% CI	p
6	2.05	1.01 - 4.18	1.90~	0.92 - 3.93	0.083
16	2.70	1.26 - 5.76	2.47~	1.14 - 5.34	0.022
35	3.18	1.12 - 8.99	4.14~	1.38 - 12.47	0.012
<b>No. of persistent HPV infections</b>					
0 infections	REF	REF	REF	REF	REF
1 infection	1.12	0.49 - 2.57	1.03*	0.44 - 2.43	0.941
2-3 infections	1.45	0.64 - 3.29	1.48*	0.64 - 3.41	0.354
$\geq$ 4 infections	3.99	1.45 - 10.94	3.91*	1.41 - 10.87	0.009

~ Adjusted for nadir CD4 cell count (cells/ $\mu$ l)

\* Adjusted for type of sexually transmitted infection

Persistent HPV-16 and HPV-35 infection were found to be predictors of HGAIN. However, sensitivity and specificity were limited for both HPV-16 infections as well as at least one persistent hrHPV infection.

	HPV-16	$\geq$ 1 hrHPV
Sensitivity	28%	75%
Specificity	87%	35%
PPV	50%	23%
NPV	73%	25%
AUC	0.58	0.55

PPV= positive predictive value; NPV= negative predictive value; AUC= area under the curve

Table 3: Parameters of usability of HPV-16 and at least one persistent hrHPV infection as a predictor of HGAIN

## Methods

HIV-positive participants of the longitudinal HIV&HPV in MSM study (H2M) who had at least two visits and an HRA, were included in this analysis. Anal-self swabs were collected in 2010-2013, and typed using the SPF<sub>10</sub>-PCR-DEI-LIPA<sub>25</sub>-system v1. HRAs done after the last H2M visit were included in this analysis. Persistence was defined as  $\geq$ 3 positive anal samples for the same hrHPV-type. Univariable and multivariable logistic regression was used to study whether persistent HPV infection with (at least) one of 12 hrHPV-types was a predictor of HGAIN.

## Discussion

HPV-16 infection has been found to cause most of the anal cancers worldwide. HPV-16 is also proven to be a risk factor for HGAIN, the pre-stage of anal cancer. We showed that persistent HPV-16 is a predictor of HGAIN among HIV-positive MSM. A strength of this study is that only HIV-positive MSM were included, the population with the highest risk of anal cancer. A limitation of this study is the relatively small sample size for type-specific analyses.