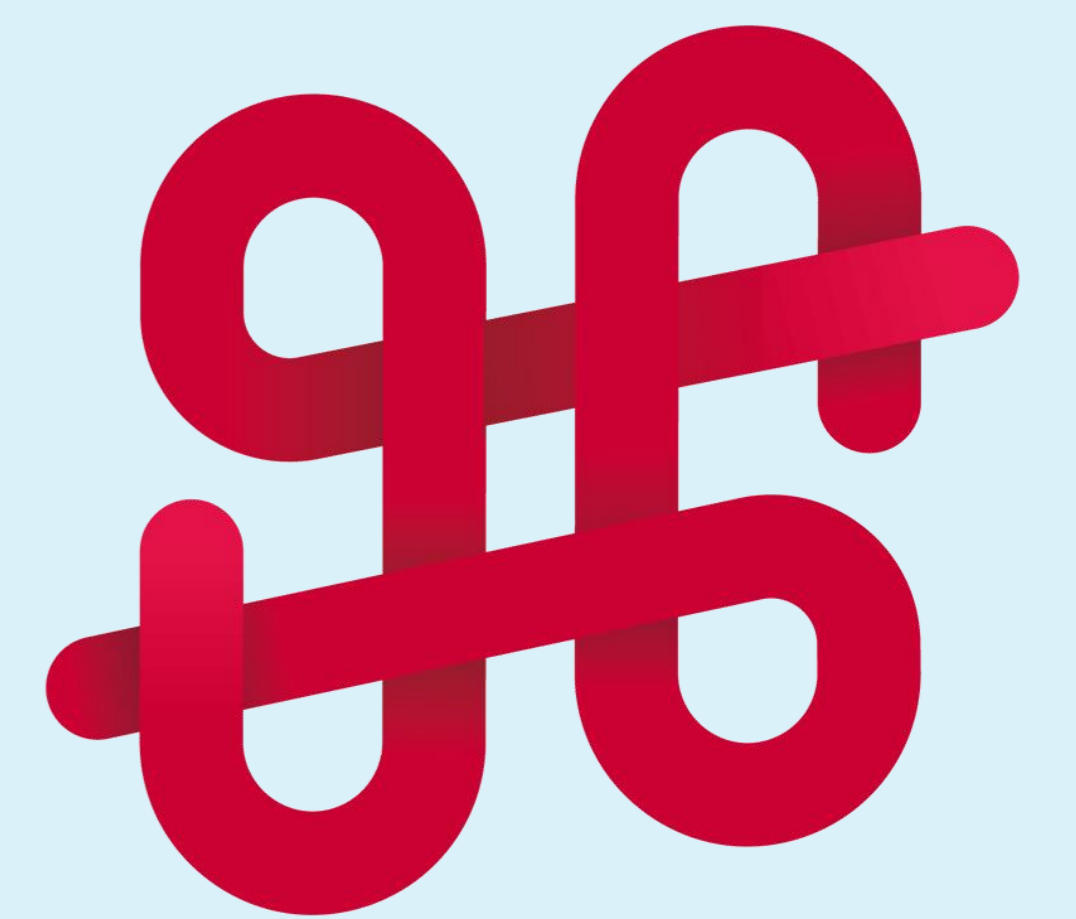




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IMPROVING THE HIV TESTING CASCADE: IMPLEMENTING HIV TEAMS TO SUPPORT HIV INDICATOR CONDITION-GUIDED TESTING IN GENERAL PRACTICE IN THE NETHERLANDS

On behalf of the #aware.hiv project group

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CONCLUSIONS

- This pilot **indicates** that a **significant gap** exist between the **positive attitudes** of general practitioners and patients on **HIV testing** and the **actual HIV indicator condition-guided testing adequacy**
- Complementary interventions**, such as integrated HIV testing alerts, will likely **improve HIV testing rates** with general practitioners in this **low HIV prevalence setting**

BACKGROUND

- Many patients newly diagnosed with HIV are **late presenters**
- Multiple **missed testing opportunities** prior to HIV diagnosis
- HIV indicator condition-guided testing** facilitates a **timelier diagnosis** of HIV
- This pilot study aimed to **evaluate the prevalence, diagnostic gaps and opportunities of HIV indicator condition-guided testing at general practitioners** in a, for the Netherlands, high prevalence setting

RESULTS

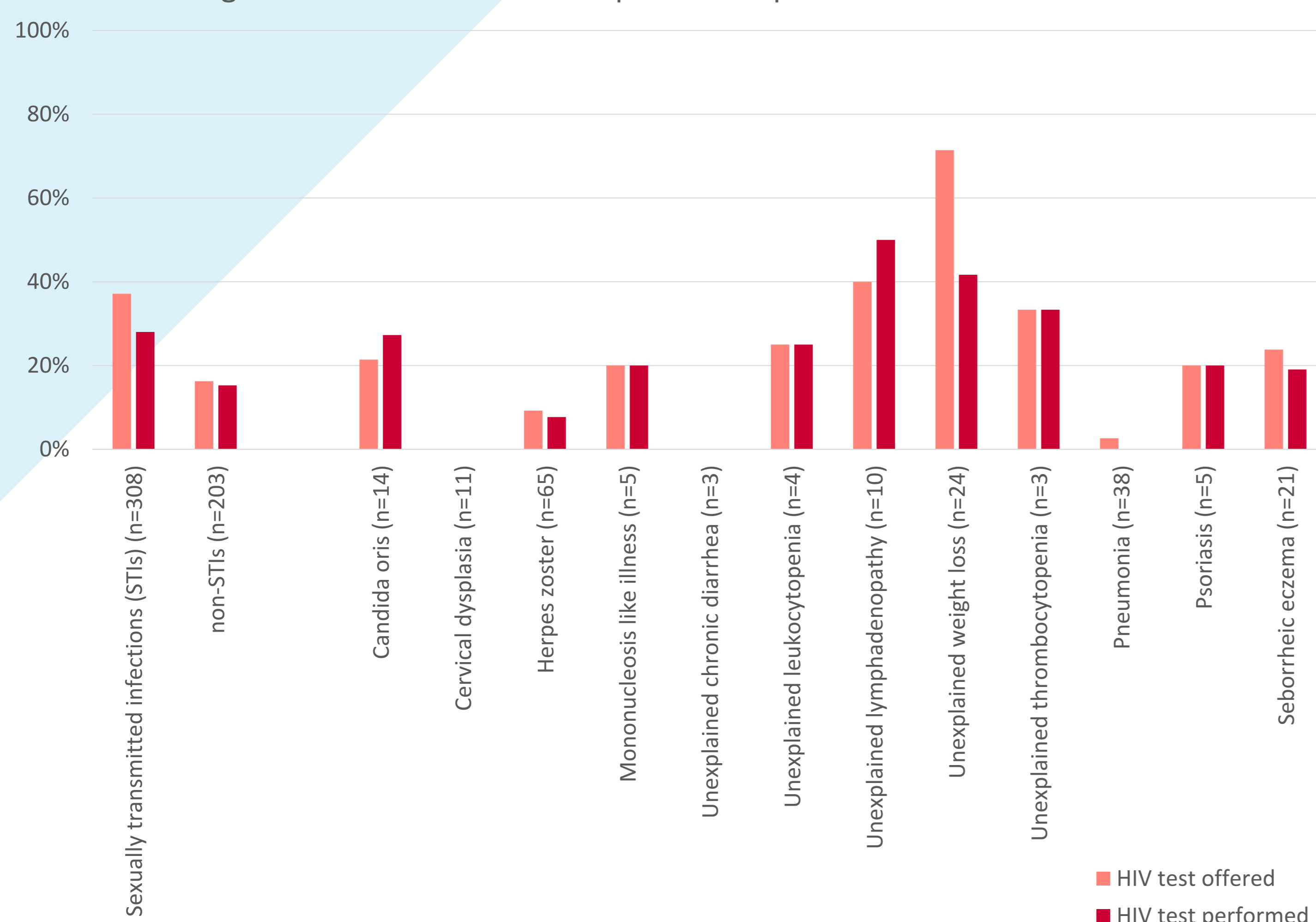
- A total of **510 HIV indicator conditions**, including 307 sexually transmitted infections, were identified on **71,927 screened** appointments
- HIV indicator condition **prevalence 0.7%** (95% CI 0.65% - 0.77%)

METHODS

- An ongoing **prospective observational study** in 14 general practices on 3 locations in the Rotterdam region
- An **HIV team** was set up, consisting of **HIV physicians** and **general practitioner ambassadors** from each location
- 14** preselected common **HIV indicator conditions**
- General practitioners were informed on the **relevance of HIV indicator condition-guided testing** and received free **point-of-care HIV tests**
- Main endpoint: **HIV testing rate adequacy** of identified **HIV indicator conditions**

- Overall **HIV testing rate** of HIV indicator conditions is **22.9%** (117/510)
- Overall **HIV positivity rate** is **0.85%** (1/117)
- HIV testing rate** considerably **lower** ($p < 0.001$) than expected (expected rate 50%)
- Major deficiencies in HIV testing adequacy** were **observed** in all 14 HIV indicator conditions (*Figure 1*)
- Sexually transmitted infections** having a **27.9%** testing rate and **unexplained lymphadenopathy** having the highest testing rate (**50%**)
- Most common reasons not to test for HIV: patient was **unreachable** or **lost to follow-up** ($n=13$) or patient **did not accept** the HIV test ($n=12$)
- Questionnaires** performed amongst **participating general practitioners** and in a **subset of patients** who received point-of-care HIV testing **showed near universal positive attitudes** towards **HIV testing** and the implementation of a more **proactive HIV testing strategy**
- General practitioners** unanimously **perceived benefits** for **patient care**

Figure 1: HIV test offered and performed per HIV indicator condition



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