



**H-TEAM**

# Mapping hematologists' HIV testing behavior among lymphoma patients in Amsterdam, the Netherlands – A mixed-methods study

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## Background

- HIV testing among patients with malignant lymphoma (PWML) is recommended
- Its implementation varies by lymphoma type and hospital

## Objective

To evaluate HIV testing among PWML, and map factors influencing hematologists' testing behavior

## Methods

- We assessed HIV testing within 3 months before or after lymphoma diagnosis and percentage positive from electronic health records
- We assessed factors influencing HIV testing and opportunities for improvement through questionnaires and semi-structured interviews among hematologists
- Patients and hematologists from five hospitals in the region of Amsterdam were eligible

## Results

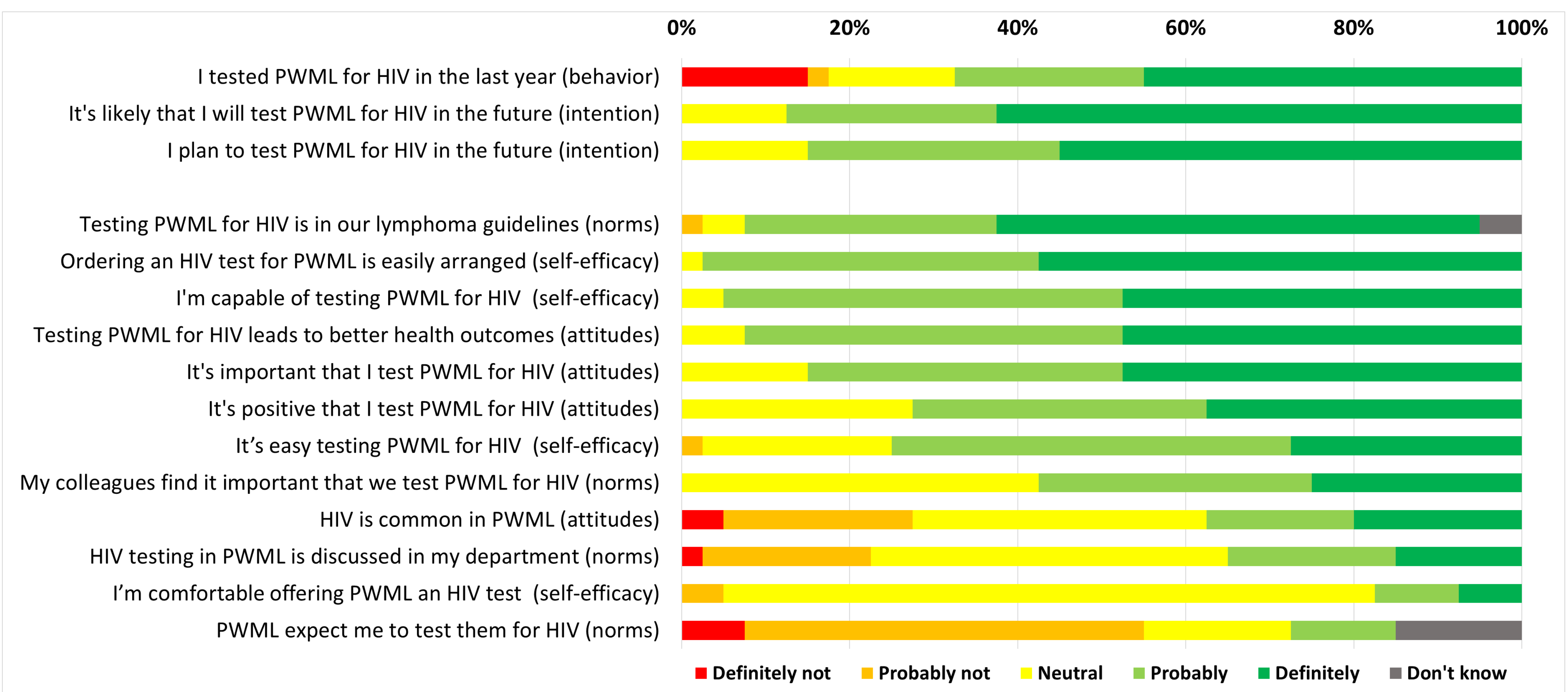
### Patient outcomes:

- 1,612 PWML were included for analysis
- **70%** of newly diagnosed patients and **54%** of patients with known lymphoma newly entering care were tested. Tested patients were more often male and of younger age
- Of patients receiving lymphoma treatment, **71%** were tested  $\leq 3$  months; 10% were tested  $> 3$  months, and **19%** were never tested. Of the latter, **57%** had a new lymphoma diagnosis requiring immediate treatment
- Overall, 7/1,021 (**0.7%**) PWML tested HIV positive, exceeding the established 0,1% cost-effectiveness threshold

### Hematologist outcomes:

- Questionnaires were completed by 40/77 invited hematologists, and twelve hematologists were interviewed
- **85%** reported intention to test for HIV (**Figure 1**)
- In the interviews, hematologists reported **varying HIV testing strategies**, including testing all PWML or only when lymphoma treatment is required
- Reported **recommendations for improvement** included guideline adaptations, electronic reminders, monitoring and increasing awareness

**Figure 1:** Questionnaire responses on determinants for HIV testing among patients with malignant lymphoma by 40 hematologists from 5 hospitals in the region of Amsterdam, 2020



## Conclusions

**Missed opportunities for HIV testing among patients with malignant lymphoma occurred, and test strategies varied among hematologists. Efforts to improve HIV testing among these patients should include a combination of approaches for optimal effect.**