

Retained and Poorly Retained Patients with HIV had Similar Total Costs in the First Two Years of Diagnosis



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Background



- Multiple studies have shown that patients with HIV who are retained in care have improved clinical outcomes and survival.
- Improved retention, however, may result in increased costs for physician visits and diagnostic tests.
- The purpose of this study is to compare the differences in costs among patients who are retained in care versus those who are poorly retained in care.

Methods



- A retrospective cohort study was conducted using the medical records of patients who had a positive rapid HIV test in the emergency department in 2008 and were linked to care.
- Inpatient, outpatient, and emergency costs as well as number of visits were collected for the first two years after initial HIV diagnosis.
- The Kruskal-Wallis test (SPSS) was used for analysis.
- Retained in care was defined as two visits with an HIV provider divided by 90 days each year for two years.

Results: Demographics



	N = (56)	Percent
Age- mean (range)	41 (19-61)	
Male	30	54%
Race		
African-American	50	89%
Caucasian	4	7%
Insurance at Diagnosis		
Any insurance including Medicaid	15	27%
Uninsured	41	73%
CD4 count < 200 at time of Rapid Test	24	43%
Mean CD4 Count (95% CI)	265 (204-325)	

Median Costs in Dollars over 2 years for Retained versus Poorly Retained Patients



	Retained N=29	Poorly Retained N=27	P Value
Inpatient Costs (range)	\$8,100 (0 to 252,167)	\$10,311 (0 to 128,213)	0.59
Outpatient Costs (range)	\$26,600 (12,411 to 72,291)	\$8,478 (61 to 32,543)	<.00
Emergency Room Costs (range)	\$1,945 (0 to 17,945)	\$2,484 (249 to 21,453)	0.29
Total Costs (range)	\$45,723 (14,349 to 305,380)	\$24,491 (2,685 to 137,489)	0.11

Median Number of Visits



	Retained N=29	Poorly Retained N=27
Inpatient Days (range)	2 (0-65)	3 (0-30)
Outpatient Visits (range)	30 (9-166)	7 (1-55)
Emergency Room Visits (range)	2 (0-10)	2 (1-20)

Conclusion



- Patient with HIV had high healthcare costs.
- Both retained and poorly retained patients had similar inpatient and emergency room costs, which may be unavoidable costs regardless of retention status.
- Retained patients had statistically higher outpatient costs, but overall costs were not significantly different.
- Retained patients averaged only \$10,616 more per year than poorly retained patients and have been shown to have better clinical outcomes, improved survival, and a decrease in the risky behaviors associated with HIV transmission.