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Changes in HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia over the period of 2000-2014

Marina Nosik^{*1}, Konstantin Ryzhov², Alexey Kravchenko³, Irina Rymanova⁴, Ulyana Kuimova³, Sergei Sevostyanihin⁴, Alexandr Sobkin⁴

¹*I.I. Mechnikov Research Institute for Vaccines and Sera; Virology*

²*I.I. Mechnikov Research Institute for Vaccines and Sera*

³*Central Research Institute of Epidemiology Rospotrebnadzor,*

⁴*G.A. Zaharyan Moscow Tuberculosis Clinic, Department for Treatment of Tb Patients With Hiv Infection*

Background: From 1996 and until recently the main route of HIV transmission in Russia was via IDU (81,3%). However in the EU and EEA the predominant mode of HIV transmission is sex between men (49%) followed by heterosexual contact (28%). Taking this into account one can assume that over time the primary mode of HIV transmission at least in the European part of the country could change. So the goal of this work was to study if there were some changes in the route of HIV transmission over the period of 2010-2014 in comparison with 2000-2005 years as well as in gender and age of HIV-infected.

Material/methods: In total 502 clinical records of patients were reviewed: 245 records of patients diagnosed with HIV over 2000-2005 years and 257 records of newly diagnosed patients over the period of 2010-2014 years. Epidemiological and clinical data were collected and analyzed as part of a descriptive study.

Results: From a 245 HIV- individuals infected in 2000-2005 years the majority was men:64,5%. The median age was: men 29,1(19÷39) years and women 27,7(20÷33) years. The main route of HIV transmission among men was IDU- 69,6%; via sexual route- 30,4%(MSM was 17,5%). Among

women the dominant route of HIV transmission was sexual contacts: 66,7%. In total 43,3% of HIV cases were related with sexual contacts and 56,7% with injecting drug use.

From 257 newly diagnosed HIV-individuals over 2010-2014 years the majority was still men(69,6%); median age 28,3(25÷52) years. However the median age for women increased and was 35,5(28÷54) years vs 27,7(20÷33) years in the period of 2000-2005. The infection via sexual route still was predominant among women:75,6%. Among men the percentage of infected via sexual route significantly increased and was 68,1%(MSM was 15,8%). In total there were 70,4% HIV cases related with sexual contacts.

Conclusions: The character of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia is changed. The number of HIV-infected via sexual route had increased significantly (70,4% cases in 2010-2014 years versus 43,3% cases in 2000-2005 years). The virus is no more confined to risk groups and has entered the heterosexual community. The significant increase in the age of newly HIV-infected women indicates that the age group 35-40 years was not covered by prevention public health activities.