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Pain in people living with HIV and its association with healthcare resource use, well-being and functional status

Short title: Pain in HIV infection

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Abstract

Objective: We describe the prevalence of pain and its associations with healthcare resource utilisation and quality-of-life.

Design: The POPPY Study recruited three cohorts: older PLWH (≥ 50 years, $n=699$), younger demographically/lifestyle similar PLWH (< 50 years, $n=374$) and older demographically/lifestyle similar HIV-negative (≥ 50 years, $n=304$) people from April 2013-February 2016.

Methods: Current pain and pain-related healthcare use was collected via a self-reported questionnaire. Logistic regression assessed between-group differences in the prevalence of pain in the past month and current pain after controlling for potential confounders. Associations between current pain and healthcare resource use, reported joint problems, depressive symptoms, quality-of-life and functional status were assessed in PLWH using Mann-Whitney U and Chi-squared tests.

Results: Pain in the past month was reported by 473/676 (70.0%) older PLWH, 224/357 (62.7%) younger PLWH and 188/295 (63.7%) older HIV-negative controls ($p=0.03$), with current pain reported in 330 (48.8%), 134 (37.5%) and 116 (39.3%), respectively ($p=0.0007$). Older PLWH were more likely to experience current pain, even after adjustment for confounders. Of those with pain in the past month, 56/412 (13.6%) had missed days of work or study due to pain, and 520 (59%) had seen a doctor about their pain. PLWH experiencing current pain had more depressive symptoms, poorer quality-of-life on all domains, and greater functional impairment, regardless of age group.

Conclusions: Even in the effective ART era, pain remains common in PLWH and has a major impact on quality-of-life and associated healthcare and societal costs. Interventions are required to assist clinicians and PLWH to proactively manage pain.

Key words: HIV; pain; quality of life; depressive symptoms

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Conflict of interest

CAS has received funding from Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare and Janssen-Cilag for the membership of Data Safety and Monitoring Boards, Advisory Boards, Speaker Panels and for the preparation of educational materials. FP has received research grants from Gilead Sciences and ViiV Healthcare, and funding from Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare, Merck Sharp and Dohme and Janssen-Cilag for membership of Advisory Boards, Speaker Panels and/or for the preparation of educational materials. MB has received speaking fees from Gilead Sciences, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Janssen-Cilag, advisory fees from ViiV Healthcare, Gilead Sciences, Merck Sharp and Dohme, honoraria from Gilead Sciences for speakers' bureau, a travel grant from Gilead Sciences and has been the principal investigator in clinical trials sponsored by Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare, Mylan, Janssen-Cilag, Bristol-Myers Squibb. JA receives grants, personal fees, and non-financial support from Gilead Sciences, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Janssen-Cilag, and Bristol-Myers Squibb, and non-financial support from ViiV Healthcare. PWM has received funding for Advisory Boards, speaker panels, preparation of educational materials and/or research grants to his institution from Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Abbvie and Janssen-Cilag. AW has received honoraria or research grants from ViiV Healthcare, Gilead Sciences, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck Sharp and Dohme, and Janssen-Cilag. RH, EB, KN, MS, IW, JV, MJ and DB have nothing to declare.

Introduction

The widespread use of antiretroviral treatment (ART), and an increased focus on engagement and retention in care, has meant that people living with HIV (PLWH) in many parts of the world now have a near-normal life expectancy, particularly if a good CD4 cell count response and undetectable viral load are achieved on ART [1,2]. However, the cohort of PLWH is ageing: for example, recent data from the Netherlands suggest that by 2030, almost three-quarters of PLWH will be aged 50 years or older, with the prevalence of age-associated comorbidities (such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, osteoporosis and non-AIDS malignancies) and use of concomitant medications also expected to increase [3].

Moderate or severe pain has, in some studies, been reported to be one of the most common physical symptoms among PLWH, with reported prevalence ranging from 30% to 83% [4-8], and reports of high rates of several pain-related conditions among PLWH in Western countries [9-12]. Pain among PLWH has both clinical and public health importance. Not only is pain associated with psychological distress, emotional problems, poor quality-of-life and suicidal ideation [13-17], but it is also known to impact on activities of daily living [18] and is associated with higher rates of sick leave, job loss and lower satisfaction with health care [19]. Among PLWH, pain is associated with poorer adherence to ART [20, 21], higher rates of viral load rebound [22], treatment switching [23, 24] and, in some subgroups, missed clinic visits [25]. Furthermore, PLWH in pain are more likely to experience lack of social support [26] and to be involved in risky behaviours such as alcohol use, intravenous drug use and sexual risk taking [6, 27-30]. Thus, in addition to the burdens placed on both the individual and the healthcare/social system, pain in PLWH has the potential to seriously curtail attempts to eliminate new HIV infections.

Despite this, chronic pain is, however, mostly neglected in clinical practice and little research has been conducted on the topic in the modern ART era among individuals in whom HIV infection is largely controlled. Yet, effective interventions for pain are available which could lead to substantial benefits if used appropriately. We describe the prevalence of pain, associated factors and association with healthcare resource utilisation and quality-of-life among PLWH and demographically and behaviourally similar HIV-negative controls.

Methods

POPPY is a prospective cohort study at seven clinical sites in the UK and Ireland that aims to investigate the impact of HIV on the development and outcomes of comorbidities and pharmacotherapy among older PLWH [31]. Three sub-groups are studied within POPPY: older HIV-positive (≥ 50 years old, $n=699$), younger HIV-positive (< 50 years, $n=374$) and older HIV-negative (≥ 50 years old, $n=304$) people. Eligible HIV-positive participants acquired HIV through sexual transmission (either sex between men or sex between men and women – those acquiring HIV through other routes, including injection drug use, were excluded), were cisgender, and were either of white or black African ethnicity. Those recruited to the younger group of PLWH were frequency-matched to the group of older PLWH on gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and participating clinic. HIV-negative participants were required to have a documented negative HIV testing; this group was frequency-matched to the older PLWH group on age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and geographical location (in or out of London). The study was approved by the UK National Research Ethics Service (NRES; Fulham, London, UK; reference number 12/LO/1409) and written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

The POPPY dataset includes information on socio-demographics, pharmacotherapy, family history, medical history, healthcare utilisation and quality-of-life. The POPPY dataset is linked to the UK Collaborative HIV Cohort (UK sites [32]) and to the UCD ID Cohort (Dublin [33]) for historic data on ART and longitudinal data on CD4 counts and HIV RNA. A self-completed questionnaire [5] asks about experience of aches or pains that have lasted one day or longer in the past month, whether the pain is current, the bodily site of any pain, whether it has resulted in any missed days from work, or whether it has resulted in the participant consulting their family doctor; responses to each of these questions are either 'yes' or 'no'. Information on pain and related resource-use is also available through the data captured on concomitant medication use (including specific use of a range of analgesics, reported as free-text), self-reported medical conditions (including a history of joint problems, joint inflammation, rheumatoid/osteo-arthritis, joint replacement, aches/pains and back pain), and reported visits to the GP, pain clinics or other specialist services for reasons relating to pain over the past year. Information on quality-of-life is collected via the SF-36 questionnaire [34], with depressive symptoms assessed through use of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression (CES-D) questionnaire [35] (score ≥ 16 indicative of significant depression), and Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) questionnaire [36]

(score ≥ 5 indicative of current depression). The Lawton Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) questionnaire [37] is used to assess functional status; participants are considered as fully functional if they have a score of ≥ 8 on this scale. The present analyses used cross sectional data from the baseline POPPY visit only, conducted between April 2013 and February 2016.

Statistical analysis

The proportions of participants in the three POPPY study groups reporting any aches and pains in the past month, and reporting current pain, were compared using Chi-squared tests and logistic regression, with and without adjustment for gender, sexuality, race, educational level and body mass index (BMI, calculated as weight/height²) all assessed at the baseline visit. Although we also describe associations with working status, this was not incorporated into multivariable regression analyses due to the difficulties in assessing the direction of any association. Associations of current pain with quality-of-life, depressive symptoms and IADL in the subgroup of PLWH were assessed using Mann Whitney U tests and Chi-squared tests, after stratification by age group (these analyses did not include the group of HIV-negative controls given the strong impact of HIV infection on these outcomes). All analyses were performed using SAS v9.3 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

Results

Prevalence of pain

Information on pain was available for 1325 of the 1377 (96.2%) POPPY participants (Table 1), 676 of older PLWH, 357 younger PLWH and 292 HIV-negative controls. Those for whom information on pain was available were more likely to be male (81.1% vs. 65.4%, $p=0.008$), men who have sex with men (MSM, 70.6% vs. 53.9%, $p=0.02$), of white ethnicity (86.1% vs. 65.4%, $p=0.0001$), and had been recruited in the earlier years of the study (58.4% recruited in 2013/2014 vs. 44.2%, $p=0.04$). Furthermore, the median age of those with information on pain was slightly lower at 54 years vs. 51 years in those without information on pain ($p=0.05$). Among PLWH, 1011 (97.9%) of those with pain information available were on ART, 925 (90.0%) had a viral load ≤ 50 copies/ml, and median latest and nadir CD4 counts were 626 and 203 cells/mm³, respectively, with no significant differences from those without information available.

The prevalence of reported aches and pains in the last month was 66.6% (882/1325) and was significantly higher in older PLWH (473/676, 70.0%) than in either younger PLWH (224/357, 62.7%) or older HIV-negative controls (188/295, 63.7%, $p=0.03$). Those who reported pain in the past month were more likely to be female ($p=0.01$), heterosexual ($p=0.02$), of black African ethnicity ($p=0.01$) and were slightly older ($p=0.01$) than those not reporting pain (Table 1). Those reporting pain in the past month also had lower educational attainment ($p=0.002$) than those not reporting pain in the past month. In unadjusted analyses, and compared to older PLWH, the odds of reporting aches or pains in the last month was 28% lower in younger PLWH, and 26% lower in HIV-negative controls (Figure 1a); after adjustment for potential confounding factors, associations between the three groups remained significant (Figure 1a).

Of those reporting pain in the past month, pain was reported to be current in 580 (43.8% of those with information on pain, Table 1). Current pain was again more common in the older PLWH (330/676, 48.8%) than in younger PLWH (134/357, 37.5%), or older HIV-negative controls (116/292, 39.7%). Associations with demographic factors, work and educational status were broadly similar to those seen for any pain in the past month. In unadjusted analyses, and compared to older PLWH, the odds of reporting current pain was 37% lower in

younger PLWH and 31% lower in HIV-negative controls (Figure 1b) with associations again remaining significant after adjustment for potential confounders (Figure 1b).

In the two groups of PLWH, of the HIV factors, only a lower nadir CD4 count was associated with an increased risk of either pain in the past month or current pain in the two groups of PLWH, with no associations being seen with either ART exposure or current CD4 count (Table 1). Adjustment for nadir CD4 count did not modify the association between age group and either any pain in the past month or current pain in PLWH (Figures 1a/b).

Impact of pain on daily activities and resource use

Of those reporting pain who provided a response, 13.6% (56/412) reported having missed days of work or study due to the pain; 18.9% (30/159) in older PLWH, 12.2% (17/139) in younger PLWH and 7.9% (9/114) in HIV-negative controls ($p=0.03$). When we compared current work status, only 41.7% of those reporting current pain were working full-time, compared to 62.7% of those not reporting current pain. Whilst similar (small) proportions in the two groups were students (1.4% vs. 1.1%, respectively), 30% of those reporting current pain were unemployed or on sick leave (vs. 14.8% in those not reporting current pain) and 26.9% were classified as having other or unknown work status (vs. 21.5% of those not reporting current pain, global $p=0.0001$). Fifty-nine percent of participants had seen a doctor about their pain (295 (62.4%), 110 (49.1%) and 115 (62.2%) in the three groups respectively, $p=0.002$). Pain-related resource use is shown in Table 2. Reported analgesic use was more common in older PLWH than in the other two groups. Although there were significant between-group differences in reported joint problems, GP visits and any pain-related resource use, these differences appeared to be driven more by older age than by HIV status. GP visits for pain were lower in the two groups of PLWH than in HIV-negative controls.

PLWH experiencing current pain had significantly higher scores on both CES-D and PHQ-9, regardless of age group, reflecting greater levels of depressive symptoms (Table 3). Almost all domains of quality-of-life were poorer in those experiencing current pain than in those without current pain. Individuals in both age groups experiencing current pain were also less likely to be classified as fully functional on the Lawton IADL score.

Discussion

Despite the use of more modern ART regimens, older PLWH continue to experience higher rates of pain than similarly-aged HIV-negative participants. Interestingly, whilst younger PLWH also reported a high rate of pain, this was at a similar level to that seen among the older HIV-negative participants. In all three groups, pain was associated with lower employment rates and with high levels of healthcare resource use. Among the two groups of PLWH, current pain was associated with higher depressive symptoms, poorer quality-of-life and poorer functional status, regardless of age.

Pain has frequently been reported to be one of the most common symptoms among PLWH, particularly in the pre- and early-combination ART eras. In a review article of 28 studies published from 1993-2011, Parker [6] reported a weighted point prevalence of pain of 54% and a three-month pain prevalence rate of 83%. Whilst more recent years have seen improvements in both the efficacy of ART, and the range of ART drugs that are available for use, pain continues to be frequently reported [4, 5, 8]. Among participants in the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), 56.1% indicated experiencing pain for at least 6 days over the past 6 months, with one in ten participants reporting experiencing pain for >120 days and over a third reporting experiencing extreme pain at least once over the period [38]. Pain in PLWH is also complex; in one study of attendees at a primary care clinic in New York City [39], the most common pain disorders reported were musculoskeletal pain, followed by neuropathic pain, headaches (including migraine), other poorly defined pain syndromes and chronic pelvic pain; multiple chronic pain diagnoses are commonly reported [5, 40]. Whilst it is tempting to attribute some of this high prevalence of pain to HIV infection, other causes may also be common – for example, among indigenous adults in San Francisco in the Research on Access to Care in the Homeless (REACH) study [41], physical assault and living conditions were commonly cited as causes of pain.

Whilst we did not aim to identify specific risk factors for current pain, pain was more commonly reported in women who, in our study, were also more likely to have acquired HIV infection through sex with men and to be of black African origin, and in those of lower educational attainment. Associations with gender in the published literature have been inconsistent [4,6,41], but lower educational levels have been reported to be associated with an increased prevalence of pain [41]. Older age is generally associated with an increased risk of pain as well as greater pain severity [5, 38, 39], consistent with our own findings. An

association of pain with more advanced HIV infection (as expressed by lower current/nadir CD4 counts, higher HIV viral loads and/or longer duration of HIV infection) has been reported previously [4, 5, 38].

Findings regarding other pain-related markers were somewhat less consistent. Whilst analgesic use was more common in older PLWH, joint problems occurred at a similar rate in both older groups in our study. Although a high proportion of participants had consulted a doctor about their pain (with no large differences between the two older groups in the study), visits to the GP for pain-related reasons were, if anything, more common in older HIV-negative controls, likely reflecting the fact that PLWH in the UK are under close management at their HIV clinic and are more likely to consult their HIV consultant for issues relating to pain than they are to consult a GP (HIV care in the UK is generally provided by hospital specialists). Other studies have reported high rates of healthcare resource use due to pain [5, 39, 42]. In a study of 103 people with HIV-related neuropathic pain [42], participants had been prescribed an average of 0.7 non-prescription pain-related medications (antiepileptics and opioids being most common) over the past 4 weeks with around 20% having received 3 or more such medications. Among primary care attendees in New York City [39], those reporting chronic pain had more emergency department visits and more radiology procedures with a trend towards a greater number of inpatient admissions. These studies did not generally make comparisons to a similar HIV-negative control group, and therefore it is unclear whether pain-related resource use in PLWH is any higher than would be expected in a similarly aged group in the general population. In one study of veterans with and without HIV in the United States [43], 13% of participants reported nonmedical use of prescription opioids, although in adjusted analyses no association was reported with HIV status.

Whilst only a small proportion of participants reported missing days of work or study due to pain, those with pain were less likely to be in full-time work and more likely to be unemployed or off sick than those without pain. An impact on work has been reported in other studies: Mann reported that among those with neuropathic pain, there was a 36.1% overall work impairment due to the pain which increased with increasing pain severity [42]. Total unadjusted annualized costs due to HIV-related neuropathic pain ranged from \$9,900 to \$25,822 per person, depending on the severity of the pain.

Among PLWH, we noted strong associations between the presence of pain and depressive symptoms, quality-of-life and functional impairment, regardless of age, as reported in other studies [5, 8, 42, 44]. Merlin [17] reported that current pain was associated with impairments in mobility, self-care and usual activities. A causal association between pain and interference with daily activities is supported by findings from a randomised trial of a pain education intervention, in which those randomised to the intervention experienced reduced pain interference with daily activities after an 8-week period [45]. Associations with substance use have also been reported [8, 38, 39], with pain serving both as a mediator and as a predictor of more use of recreational drugs, as well as more depressive symptoms [46]. Other negative effects of pain include direct associations with reduced social support [26] and with higher rates of unprotected vaginal or anal sex [29], raising concern that pain in PLWH may also lead to worse outcomes on ART. Whilst we were unable to consider this association in our cross-sectional analysis (the majority of POPPY participants were on stable ART at recruitment), Surratt [7] reported that those with untreated pain had a 42% lower odds of 95% medication adherence in the previous week compared to those who were pain-free.

As yet, the mechanisms by which HIV may lead to an increased risk of pain remain unclear. In 2013, Merlin [47] proposed a conceptual biopsychosocial framework for understanding chronic pain in PLWH, which includes biological (such as HIV neuropathy), psychological (following traumatic events) and social (environmental and relationship) factors. More recently [48], Merlin noted significantly higher levels of IL-1 β a marker already implicated in a range of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, in PLWH with chronic pain than in those without chronic pain, suggesting a biological pathway. Thus, interventions to reduce the burden of pain in this population need to address both physical and psychological factors. Whilst there is some evidence to suggest that self-management interventions may be effective in improving pain and physical symptoms, the quality of evidence to support these interventions is relatively poor [49]. A recent pilot study [50] has, however, demonstrated feasibility and acceptability of such an approach.

The large sample of PLWH in our study is broadly representative of older PLWH in western European settings, where the population is optimally treated for their HIV (with high levels of viral suppression). This has allowed us to describe the prevalence of pain among PLWH in an era of very effective treatment. In comparison to many earlier studies, our study also benefits from the inclusion of appropriately selected HIV-negative controls with similar

characteristics to the older PLWH in the study, allowing us to determine the role of HIV infection in the development of pain. Indeed, our study also reports a high prevalence of pain in older HIV-negative people from a similar demographic background and with similar lifestyles – thus, the contribution of HIV itself to the high reported rate of pain in PLWH may be less than widely thought, with other contributory causes being common in this age group. However, some limitations must be noted. Firstly, whilst the POPPY study is a prospective cohort, the analyses reported herein relate to the baseline visit only limiting inferences around causality - future analyses of the longitudinal follow-up of this cohort will permit more detailed analyses of the impact of pain on longer-term general and health-related outcomes as well as the identification of predictors (both HIV-related and HIV-unrelated) of incident and chronic pain. Due to the observational nature of the study, we cannot rule out the possibility that unmeasured common causes of pain and negative health outcomes may exist, which may introduce confounding. Whilst our cohort is broadly representative of the older population of PLWH in the UK and Ireland, the fact that most participants are engaged in care and are on stable ART may have introduced some selection bias; equally, this population may represent a cohort that has ‘survived’ through earlier eras of ART and may not be representative of those who are infected with HIV in more recent years.

Conclusions

Our study confirms that even in the era of effective ART, and in individuals with largely controlled HIV infection, pain remains common among PLWH with major impact on quality-of-life and associated healthcare and societal costs. Interventions are required to assist clinicians to proactively manage pain in their patients, and to assist PLWH to communicate their pain to clinicians and to self-manage pain and related symptoms. Our findings support the need for routine assessment of pain in this group. Further longitudinal studies of the severity, location and contributors to pain in PLWH will support the development of effective, low cost and easy to manage interventions for pain management.

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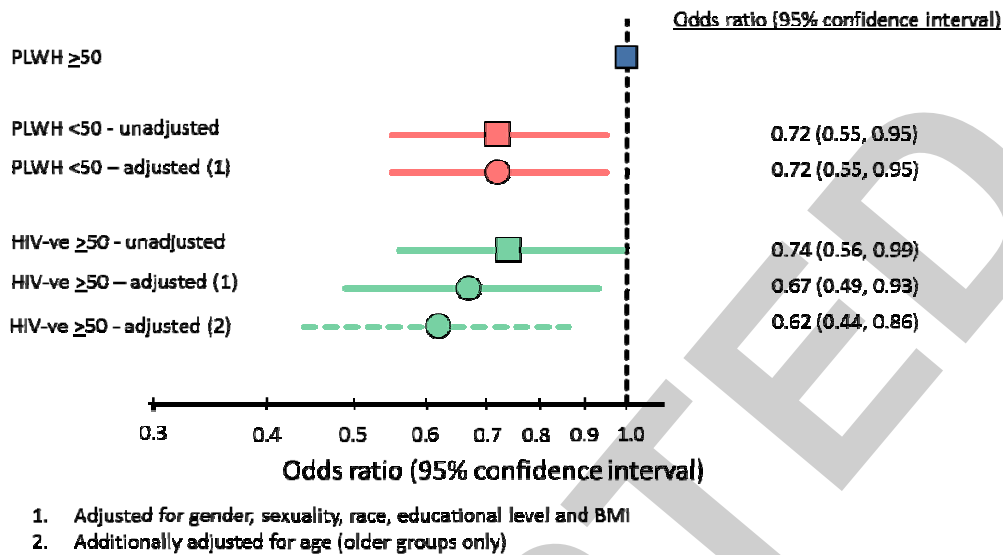
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Figure 1: Results from univariate and multivariable analyses to identify predictors of a) any aches or pains in the past month and b) current pain

a) Any aches or pains in the past month



b) Current pain

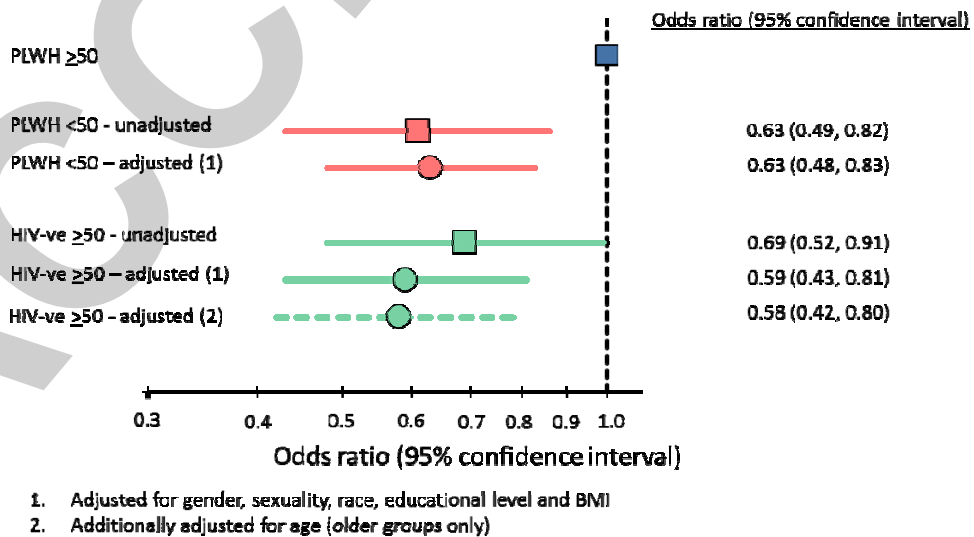


Table 1: Characteristics of a) all POPPY participants included in the analysis of pain data, b) those who do and do not report pain in the last month, and c) those who do and do not report current pain; table entries show n and column percentages, unless otherwise stated

		Total with pain data	Aches or pains in the last month		P-value*	Current pain		P-value*
			Yes	No		Yes	No	
Number of participants		1325 (100.0)	882	443		580	745	
Cohort	Older HIV-positive	676 (51.0)	473 (53.6)	203 (45.8)		330 (56.9)	346 (46.4)	
	Younger HIV-positive	357 (26.9)	224 (25.4)	133 (30.0)		134 (23.1)	223 (29.9)	
	Older HIV-negative	292 (22.0)	188 (21.0)	107 (24.2)	0.03	116 (20.0)	176 (23.6)	0.0007
Gender	Male	1075 (81.1)	698 (79.1)	377 (85.1)		455 (78.5)	620 (83.2)	
	Female	250 (18.9)	184 (20.9)	66 (14.9)	0.01	125 (21.6)	125 (16.8)	0.03
Sexuality/risk group	MSM	935 (70.6)	603 (68.4)	332 (74.9)		397 (68.5)	538 (72.2)	
	Heterosexual	390 (29.4)	279 (31.6)	111 (25.1)	0.02	183 (31.6)	207 (27.8)	0.15
Race	White	1141 (86.1)	744 (84.4)	397 (89.6)		490 (84.5)	651 (87.4)	
	Black African	184 (13.9)	138 (15.7)	46 (10.4)	0.01	90 (15.5)	94 (12.6)	0.15
Education	O levels or lower	341 (25.7)	253 (28.7)	88 (19.9)		177 (30.5)	164 (22.0)	
	A levels	193 (14.6)	122 (13.8)	71 (16.0)		77 (13.3)	116 (15.6)	
	Higher than A levels/unknown	791 (59.7)	507 (57.5)	284 (64.1)	0.002	326 (56.2)	405 (62.4)	0.002
Age (years)	Median (IQR)	54 (49, 60)	54 (49, 60)	53 (48, 59)	0.01	55 (50, 60)	53 (48, 59)	0.0005
BMI (kg/m ²)	Median (IQR)	25.7 (23.3, 28.6)	25.9 (23.3, 28.9)	25.4 (23.3, 28.0)	0.07	26.0 (23.6, 29.1)	25.4 (23.1, 28.2)	0.0009
Year of baseline visit	2013	187 (14.1)	116 (13.2)	71 (16.0)		78 (13.5)	109 (14.3)	
	2014	587 (44.3)	406 (46.0)	181 (40.9)		283 (48.8)	304 (40.8)	
	2015	497 (37.5)	324 (36.7)	173 (39.1)		197 (34.0)	300 (40.3)	
	2016	54 (4.1)	36 (4.1)	18 (4.1)	0.27	22 (3.8)	32 (4.3)	0.03
<i>HIV-positive cohorts only</i>								
Current CD4 (cells/mm ³)	Median (IQR)	626 (478, 810)	630 (477, 816)	607 (479, 806)	0.49	624 (473, 809)	626 (479, 810)	0.94
Nadir CD4 (cells/mm ³)	Median (IQR)	203 (102, 306)	200 (87, 300)	218 (128, 332)	0.004	185 (85, 290)	217 (120, 324)	0.0009
On antiretroviral therapy		1011 (97.9)	682 (97.9)	329 (97.9)	1.00	456 (98.3)	555 (97.5)	0.55
Viral load <50 copies/ml		925 (89.9)	629 (90.6)	296 (88.4)	0.31	424 (92.0)	501 (88.2)	0.06

* P-value obtained from Chi-squared test (categorical covariates) or Mann-Whitney U test (continuous covariates)

MSM: men who have sex with men; IQR: interquartile range.

Table 2: Other markers of pain assessed as part of the baseline POPPY study visit, stratified by study group

	Overall	Group			p-value (Chi-squared test)
		Older HIV-positive	Younger HIV-positive	Older HIV-negative	
Number of participants	1377	699	374	304	
<i>Concomitant medication</i>					
Any reported analgesic use	210 (15.3)	130 (18.6)	49 (13.1)	31 (10.2)	0.001
<i>Reported health problems</i>					
Any joint problem	629 (45.7)	371 (53.1)	108 (28.9)	150 (49.3)	0.0001
<i>Resource use</i>					
GP – generalised pain	22 (1.6)	10 (1.4)	7 (1.9)	5 (1.6)	0.86
GP – back pain	65 (4.7)	28 (4.0)	16 (4.3)	21 (6.9)	0.12
GP – joint pain problems	104 (7.6)	50 (7.2)	21 (5.6)	33 (10.9)	0.03
GP – other pain	112 (8.1)	58 (8.3)	27 (7.2)	27 (8.9)	0.71
Any GP visit for pain-related reasons	264 (19.2)	128 (18.3)	59 (15.8)	77 (25.3)	0.005
Any GP visits	1052 (76.4)	547 (78.3)	260 (69.5)	245 (80.6)	0.0009
Median (range) number of GP visits	2 (1-32)	2 (1-32)	2 (1-23)	2 (1-20)	0.09
Other specialist – pain management	19 (1.4)	14 (2.0)	2 (0.5)	3 (1.0)	0.12
Any pain-related resource use	274 (19.9)	136 (19.5)	59 (15.8)	79 (26.0)	0.004

Table 3: Association between current pain, depression scores (CES-D, PHQ9) and components of quality-of-life (SF-36) among PLWH, stratified by age group

	PLWH aged >50 years		p-value ²	PLWH aged <50 years		p-value ²
	No current pain	Current pain		No current pain	Current pain	
<i>Depressive symptoms¹</i>						
CES-D score, median (IQR)	9 (3, 17)	15 (7, 26)	0.0001	7 (3, 15)	14 (7, 27)	0.0001
Significant depression (≥16), n (%)	92 (28.5)	148 (50.0)	0.0001	51 (24.6)	57 (46.3)	0.0001
PHQ-9 score, median (IQR)	2 (0, 7)	7 (2, 12)	0.0001	3 (1, 7)	6 (2, 13)	0.0001
Current depression (≥5), n (%)	120 (36.6)	183 (60.2)	0.0001	85 (39.9)	73 (57.5)	0.002
<i>Quality of life (SF-36 subscales)¹, median (IQR)</i>						
Physical functioning	90 (75, 100)	72 (45, 90)	0.0001	100 (95, 100)	90 (55, 100)	0.0001
Role limitations due to physical health	100 (50, 100)	50 (0, 100)	0.0001	100 (100, 100)	75 (0, 100)	0.0001
Role limitations due to emotional problems	100 (33, 100)	83 (0, 100)	0.0002	100 (66, 100)	67 (0, 100)	0.0001
Energy/fatigue	65 (50, 80)	50 (25, 65)	0.0001	65 (50, 80)	50 (30, 65)	0.0001
Emotional well-being	80 (60, 88)	68 (52, 84)	0.0001	80 (60, 88)	68 (52, 84)	0.001
Social functioning	90 (65, 100)	67 (42, 90)	0.0001	90 (67, 100)	67 (42, 90)	0.0001
General health	70 (55, 80)	50 (30, 70)	0.0001	75 (55, 85)	60 (40, 75)	0.0001
<i>Lawton Instrumental Activities of Daily Living</i>						
Fully functioning, n (%)	302 (91.0)	241 (76.5)	0.0001	205 (95.4)	98 (77.2)	0.0001

¹For CES-D and PHQ-9, higher values indicate greater depressive symptoms; for the subscales of the SF-36, lower values indicate poorer quality of life. ²p-values obtained from Mann-Whitney U test (numerical outcomes) or Chi-squared test (categorical outcomes)