

## EPIDEMIOLOGY OF SYPHILIS IN PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH HIV/AIDS IN THE STATE OF PARÁ, NORTH REGION OF BRAZIL

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Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are the major public health problems in most of the world, especially syphilis, which is transmitted by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. Syphilis causes ulcerative genital lesions that facilitate HIV transmission by breaking down mucosal protection barriers, activating immune system cells, and increasing viral load. In addition, concomitant HIV infection may adversely affect the natural history, clinical manifestations, and response to syphilis treatment. The incidence of syphilis has increased in people living with HIV/AIDS in Brazil. The present study aimed to describe the prevalence of syphilis in patients with HIV/AIDS treated in the city of Belém, Pará, as well as epidemiological factors related to the positivity for coinfection. A cross-sectional study involving 500 participants was conducted between June and November 2018 of the Specialized Reference Unit on Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (URE-DIPE), located in the city of Belém, Pará. After answering an epidemiological questionnaire and signing a consent form free and clear, participants' venous blood was collected for VDRL as a screening test and FTA-abs as a confirmatory test for syphilis. Individuals with a titre greater than or equal to 8 in VDRL and positive FTA-abs were considered positive for syphilis. The prevalence of syphilis was 6.4% (32/500), with most men being heterosexual, who reported using condoms during intercourse and had only one partner in the last six months. There was observed an association between syphilis and sex, age, marital status, schooling, sexual orientation, condom use and number of partners. The prevalence of syphilis in people living with HIV/AIDS in the city of Belém is low when compared to other Brazilian states. However, it is necessary to monitor it for a better control and rapid treatment of this coinfection.

**Keywords:** Coinfection, Syphilis, HIV

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