



Late Presentation to HIV Care

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Message from the Guest Editors

The World Health Organization defines “late presentation” as a new HIV diagnosis with concurrent acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-defining events, or a new HIV diagnosis with a CD4+ count less than 350 cells/mm³.

Late presentation is associated with ongoing HIV transmission, lower antiretroviral treatment outcomes, lower chances of experiencing a robust CD4+ cell gain, higher HIV reservoirs, higher healthcare costs, and overall more adverse outcomes and co-morbidities, eventually including a shorter life expectancy. Late HIV diagnosis remains a major challenge for most European countries. On the other hand, an early initiation of antiretroviral treatment has been associated with a substantially smaller HIV reservoir, thus reinforcing the need for proactive strategies to diagnose occult HIV infection.

In this Special Issue of *Microorganisms*, we review the current situation of late HIV presentation in Europe, the determinants associated with it, its impact on life expectancy and causes of death, the established HIV reservoir and comorbidities, as well as strategies targeted at proactively diagnosing subjects with occult HIV infection in healthcare facilities.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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