HIGHER RISK FOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS AS YOUTH BORN WITH HIV GET OLDER

As youth living with HIV get older, they may have poor control of their HIV (higher viral loads and lower CD4 count). We wanted to know if teens and young adults born with HIV in the U.S. had more medical problems as they got older. Studying this can help us find ways to help them stay healthy.

WHO PARTICIPATED

1,446 teens and young adults ages 13 - 30 living with HIV participated. Some were in the PHACS AMP study, some were in another study called IMPAACT, and some were in both studies.

WHAT WE DID

We looked at different types of medical problems, including ones that were contagious and ones that were not.

Some of the factors we looked at were age, viral load, CD4 count, and whether or not participants had been given ARV medications to take.

WHAT WE FOUND

Young adults 18-30 were more likely to have higher viral loads and lower CD4 counts, as well as other medical problems.

Compared to teens ages 13 - 17, young adults living with HIV ages 18 - 30 were more likely to have poor control of their HIV.

Young adults ages 18 - 30 were also more likely to have pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, an AIDS-defining medical problem, and early death.

We found that teens and young adults with good control of their HIV (lower viral loads and higher CD4 counts) didn’t have as many medical problems.

WHAT WE LEARNED

We need to improve care for 18 - 30 year-old young adults living with HIV so they can be healthy now and into the future.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5411314.

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