

Simulating the development and progression of Chronic Kidney Disease and osteoporosis in people living with HIV

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ABSTRACT

The "chronicization" of HIV infection brings about a growing necessity to attentively evaluate current and potential complications when prescribing the individual therapeutic regimen. Starting from this need, we developed two HIV-comorbidity simulators that, basing on the evidence available in medical literature and starting from the current clinical and demographic features of the individual patient, project and compare the risks of developing and worsening of nephropathy and osteopathy associated with possible ARV regimens. These simulators are embedded in a desktop, user-friendly software thought to be used by the treating physician during prescription discussion with his/her patients, in order to highlight expected clinical outcomes and healthcare resource consumption that may differ according to the therapeutic strategy selected. In this article we present the sources and methods used in developing the mathematical models, alongside a set of examples and the results of cohort-level validation runs.

Keywords

HIV; Chronic Kidney Disease; Osteoporosis

INTRODUCTION

Infection with Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) may be considered one of the most challenging epidemics faced by health systems globally. In 2012, UNAIDS estimated a global prevalence of around 35.3 million people living with HIV (PLHIV). This number is increasing due to the availability of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and, mutually, mortality due to new infections is evidently declining across the globe [1].

Indeed, in the current era, most patients taking HAART achieve full and sustained virologic suppression; however, HAART does not restore full health in PLHIV, who face

increased risk of several non-AIDS complications [2], including cardiovascular, renal, and bone disease.

Treating clinicians have to deal with this evolution in the challenges posed by HIV, and redefine aim and tools of HIV infection management. In particular, there is a growing necessity to attentively evaluate current and potential complications when prescribing the individual therapeutic regimen. Starting from this need, we developed two HIV-comorbidity simulators that, basing on the evidence available in medical literature and starting from the current clinical and demographic features of the individual patient, project and

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compare the risks of developing and worsening of nephropathy and osteopathy associated with possible antiretroviral (ARV) regimens. These simulators are embedded in a desktop, user-friendly software thought to be used by the treating physician during prescription discussion with his/her patients, in order to highlight expected clinical outcomes and healthcare resource consumption that may differ according to the strategy selected. The

tool offers the possibility of customizing the projection by modifying the input data proposed as default, selected across a deep review of Italian and international literature and submitted for evaluation to a panel of infectious diseases experts.

In this supplement we present the sources and methods used in developing the tool, alongside a set of examples and the results of cohort-level validation runs.

Nephropathy model

BACKGROUND – NEPHROPATHY IN PLHIV

Before the introduction of ART, HIV-associated kidney disease was the third leading cause of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) [3] and associated with higher mortality compared to other causes of kidney disease [4]. The incidence of HIV-associated kidney disease markedly decreased after the introduction of ART and any increase in the incidence of kidney disease may be attributed to aging and traditional associated risk factors like diabetes and hypertension [5] and as a side effect of ARTs themselves [6-8]. ARTs are recommended for all symptomatic patients and those asymptomatic with CD4 cell count below 350/ μ L [9]. Due to highly comparable efficacy between Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (RTI) or a ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitor based regimens, the initial choice should be personalized and be based on more than efficacy: co-morbidities, tolerance/safety and economic factors. On the side of RTIs, tenofovir and (emtricitabine or lamivudine) is one recommended option that proved to be more efficacious than other options from the same class like zidovudine/lamivudine [10] or stavudine/lamivudine [11].

However, one major safety concern with tenofovir is the possible negative impact on renal function [12]. Therefore, renal function assessment before and after initiation is critical; and in patients with renal dysfunction, tenofovir is better avoided [9]. This safety concern was observed to a lesser extent with other ARTs [6-8], yet more studied and confirmed with tenofovir [13-15]. In clinical practice, another problem arises regarding assessing the long term renal safety of tenofovir due to higher discontinuation rates with decreasing eGFR [7]. However, tenofovir wasn't proved to be responsible for ESRD [16] and eGFR loss that may be attributed to tenofovir, in a long-term perspective, is relatively mild [17].

Advanced stages of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) are devastating for patients and families on one hand and, on the other hand, have major structural and economic impact on the health systems. This is particularly true when

patients move to end-stage renal disease with the inevitable necessity of renal replacement by either dialysis or transplantation [18]. Providing the clinical practice with tools able to predict the occurrence or progression of CKD should aid the provision of necessary interventions that may stop or slow the progression to ESRD [19]. Echouffo-Tcheugui et al. systematically searched the literature in June 2012 for existing models predicting occurrence or progression of CKD in different populations [20]. eGFR cut off value (60 ml/min/1.73 m²) was uniformly used to define CKD. Age, sex, body mass index, diabetes status, systolic blood pressure, serum creatinine, a measure of proteinuria, and serum albumin or total protein were the most frequently included predictors. Sadly, despite the need for it, any of CKD risk prediction tools weren't found to be recommended in relevant clinical guidelines. And the impact of possible adoption of such tools in different clinical settings wasn't assessed [20].

Among Echouffo-Tcheugui et al.'s 26 included papers only one that aimed to predict 1-year probability of developing CKD among HIV-infected population [21]. This model only estimates new cases based on an ethnically limited sample, Japanese patients, and only among patients already receiving ARTs. Age, CD4 cell count, diabetes, proteinuria, and eGFR at baseline were the variables found to be independently associated with the incidence of CKD.

Melting all HIV-specific and traditional risk factors in one predictive model of both incidence and progression of CKD up to ESRD and death is our challenge.

RENAL DISEASE EVALUATION DURING BASELINE PERIOD

The evolution of renal disease during the 3 years of baseline period is defined using a mathematical algorithm that merges evidence from published literature. The calculation, detailed in the next sub-section, takes into account:

- The initial value of eGFR according to baseline patient characteristics (serum creatinine levels, age, sex and race);

Stage	eGFR ¹	Description	Treatment stage
1	90+	Normal KF but urine findings or structural abnormalities or genetic trait point to KD	Observation, control of BP. More on management of stages 1 and 2 CKD
2	60-89	Mildly reduced KF, and other findings (as for stage 1) point to KD	Observation, control of BP and risk factors. More on management of stages 1 and 2 CKD
3 ²	30-59	Moderately reduced KF	Observation, control of BP and risk factors. More on management of stage 3 CKD
4	15-29	Severely reduced KF	Planning for end-stage renal failure. More on management of stages 4 and 5 CKD
5	<15 or on dialysis	Very severe, or end-stage KF (sometimes call established renal failure)	Treatment choices. More on management of stages 4 and 5 CKD

Table I. CKD stages (elaborated from GLCKD 2002)

BP = Blood Pressure; KD = Kidney Disease; KF = Kidney Function

¹ All eGFR values are normalized to an average surface area (size) of 1.73 m²

² Stage 3 is usually divided in stage 3A (eGFR 45-59) and stage 3B (eGFR 30-44)

Status			Annual eGFR decrease	
HTN	DM	MA	eGFR < 60	eGFR ≥ 60
No	No	No	0.65	0.65
		Yes	4.2	0.72
	Yes	No	2.8	1.1
Yes	No	Yes	5.2	4.1
		No	1.4	0.72
	Yes	No	2.8	1.1
		No	5.2	4.1

Table II. eGFR decrease according to clinical status (diabetes, hypertension and macroalbuminuria)

DM = Diabetes Mellitus; HTN = hypertension; MA = macroalbuminuria

- The reduction of eGFR due to clinical risk factors (diabetes, hypertension and macroalbuminuria incidence);
- The acceleration/deceleration in eGFR reduction due to HIV risk factors (HIV infection, HIV severity, ART).

Initial renal function estimate

According to Guidelines [19], CKD severity is classified into five stage depending on the eGFR value; kidney function is normal in stage 1 and minimally reduced in stage 2 (Table I).

The value of eGFR is calculated using different predictive models available in literature. All available equations (for adult population) are incorporated in the software and implemented in the models as starting points of the simulation of glomerular disease progression:

- Cockcroft-Gault formula [22]

$$eGFR = (140 - Age) \cdot W/72 \cdot Sc \cdot (0.85 \text{ if female})$$

where W is the real weight if BMI is normal (between 18.5 and 25) otherwise is calculat-

ed as the ideal BMI (18.5 if BMI < 18.5 and 25 if BMI > 25) multiplied by the square of height. Resulting value is then standardised to BSA equal to 1.73 m².

- Modified Diet Renal Disease (MDRD) equation [23]

$$eGFR = k \cdot Sc - 1.154 \cdot Age - 0.203 \cdot (0.742 \text{ if female}) \cdot (1.212 \text{ if black})$$

Where k is equal to 175 for standardized serum creatinine and 186 otherwise.

- CKD-EPI equation [24]

$$eGFR = 141 \cdot \min(Sc/k, 1) - a \cdot \max(Sc/k, 1) - 1.209 \cdot 0.993 \text{ Age} \cdot (1.018 \text{ if female}) \cdot (1.159 \text{ if black})$$

Where k is 0.7 for females and 0.9 for males, a is 0.329 for females and 0.411 for males.

- Mayo Quadratic (MQ) formula [25]

$$eGFR = \exp(1.911 + 5.249/Sc - 2.114/Sc^2 - 0.00686 \cdot Age - (0.205 \text{ if female}))$$

The formula better estimates GFR in patients with preserved kidney function but it was not developed in a general population sample (elderly and African-American persons were underrepresented).

In all models, Sc is the serum creatinine value expressed in mg/dl, the age is measured in years and weight in kg.

eGFR decrease (without HIV influence)

Annual eGFR decreases are based on a recent microsimulation model developed by Hoeger et al. [26]. The values are function of the initial value of eGFR, presence of diabetes and/or hypertension and evidence of persistent macroalbuminuria (defined as albumin-creatinine ratio ≥ 300 mg/g). Absolute annual reductions used in the model, expressed in ml/min/1.73 m², are detailed in Table II.

HIV factor risks

Five HIV-specific CKD risk factors were identified in the literature and incorporated in the model basing on the results of comparative studies:

- PLHIV versus HIV-uninfected people [14];
- Late-stage HIV infection versus non-AIDS PLHIV [14];
- ART versus treatment-naïve PLHIV [14];
- Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) pair:
 - specific for each drugs [6];
 - including vs not including tenofovir [13].
- Third drug prescription [6].

Unfortunately the definition of renal disease is different in the studies: in Islam 2012 [14] and in Scherzer 2012 [13] renal disease is defined as eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m² for greater than or equal to 3 months irrespective of kidney damage while in Tordato 2011 [6] it is defined as a confirmed > 20% eGFR reduction from baseline (Table III).

eGFR progression algorithm during the baseline period

The progression of renal disease in the first 3 years is evaluated according with the following algorithm:

1. The initial eGFR value is calculated according to patient characteristics;
2. Annual absolute eGFR reduction is determined according to clinical risk factors;
3. The absolute reduction is converted into an annual reduction rate (λ_{BASAL}) supposing exponential decay in eGFR value;
4. Using this rate, the time (T_{CRIT}) at which eGFR falls below 60 ml/min/1.73 m² is calculated;
5. T_{CRIT} is corrected for HIV relative factors (excluding specific drugs influence);
6. A new annual reduction rate (λ_{CRIT}) is calculated according to this corrected T_{CRIT} ;
7. λ_{CRIT} is corrected for specific third drug/drug class as reported in section “HIV factor risk”;

CKD comparison	Outcome measures	95% CI	p-value
PLHIV vs. non-HIV (adjusted for sex, age and race)	RR: 3.87	2.18-6.85	
Late stage HIV vs. non-AIDS PLHIV	RR: 3.32	1.86-5.93	
ART vs. treatment-naïve	RR: 0.54	0.29-0.99	
NRTI pair [6]			
• Zidovudine/lamivudine	RR: 1		
• Tenofovir/emtricitabine	RR: 4.78	2.19-10.43	< 0.001
• Tenofovir/lamivudine	RR: 4.2	1.95-9.02	< 0.001
• Abacavir/lamivudine	RR: 1.88	0.63-5.65	NS ¹
• Stavudine/lamivudine	RR: 2.06	0.26-16.34	NS ¹
• Didanosine/emtricitabine	RR: 11.88	2.27-62.18	< 0.01
• Didanosine/lamivudine	RR: 1.81	0.38-8.59	NS ¹
• Didanosine/stavudine	RR: 2.54	0.31-20.46	NS ¹
• Other (single agent or > 2 NRTIs)	RR: 0.43	0.07-2.55	NS ¹
TNF vs. no TNF including regimes [13]			
• TNF exposure < 0.5 years	HR: 1.30	0.91-1.86	NS ²
• TNF exposure 0.5-1 years	HR: 1.85	1.35-2.53	< 0.001
• TNF exposure 1-3 years	HR: 1.69	1.26-2.27	< 0.001
• TNF exposure > 3 years	HR: 1.56	0.73-3.36	NS ²
Third drug/drug class			
• NNRTI ³	RR: 1		
• Non-indinavir single PI	RR: 3.18	1.62-6.23	< 0.001
• Non-indinavir PI/r	RR: 2.15	1.25-3.70	< 0.01
• NRTIs only	RR: 9.39	1.79-49.32	< 0.01

Table III – Relative risks related to HIV risk factors

HR = Hazard Ratio; PI = Protease Inhibitor; /r = ritonavir-boosted; RR = Relative Risk; TNF = tenofovir

¹ Non significant RR was considered equal 1

² Association of tenofovir exposure with CKD risk for less than one year was not taken into account since the model allows only switch of therapy at the end of the year of simulation. After 3 years the effect of tenofovir was not considered differential

³ Non NRTI

	Start eGFR (ml/min/1.73 m ²)			Overall
	<60	60-90	>90	
Tenofovir discontinuation				
• < 3 months	23.8 (8.5-39.0)	15.8 (10.0-21.6)	9.5 (4.7-14.3)	12.5 (8.9-16.1)
• > 3 months	-0.4 (-6.4-5.7)	0.3 (-0.8-1.4)	1.2 (0.12-2.1)	0.8 (0.1-1.5)
Weighted slopes ¹	6.550	4.550	2.975	

Table IV. eGFR slopes after tenofovir exposure

¹ eGFR slopes after tenofovir discontinuation (< 3 months) according to start eGFR value were mediated by the overall eGFR slope (> 3 months) since detailed slopes lacked statistical significance

The effect of the NRTI pair can be simulated according to two different data sets, Tordato 2011 [6] and Scherzer 2012 [13].

- Model 1 (based on Tordato 2011 [6]): According to the decay-rate related definition of renal disease in Tordato 2011

(confirmed > 20% eGFR reduction from baseline), NRTI pair-specific RRs are applied directly to λ_{CRIT} . The new rate is used to estimate eGFR progression (under the exponential hypothesis and applying half-cycle correction) only for the first two years of simulation, as for the third year of the baseline period we suppose no influence of specific ART regimen.

- Model 2 (based on Scherzer 2012 [13]): The influence of NRTI pair is modelled using HR reported in Scherzer 2012 (tenofovir vs no tenofovir) for all 3 years of the baseline period. The reported HR for eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m² is directly applied to λ_{CRIT} (similarly to model 1).

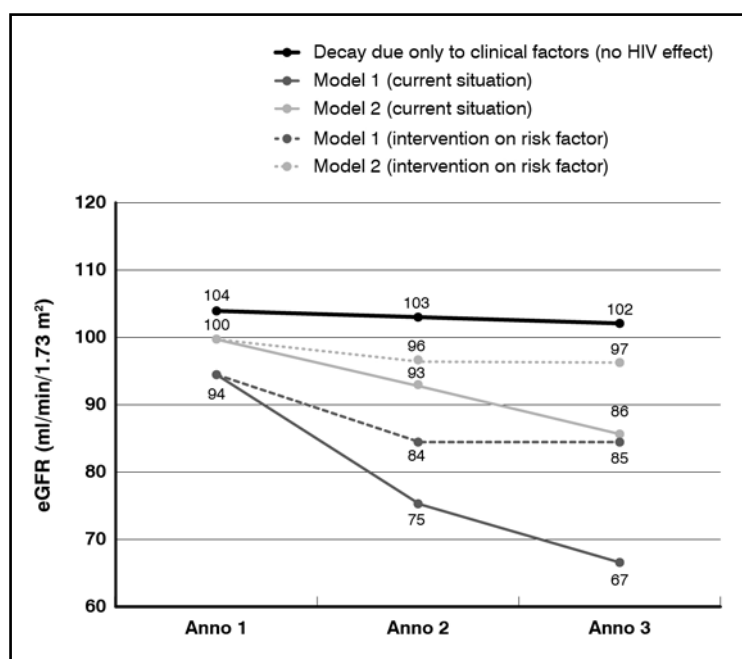


Figure 1. CKD progression according to simulation algorithm (during baseline period); the evolution according to the two models is compared with the effect of intervention on risk factor

INTERVENTION ON RISK FACTORS

The model takes into account possible interventions on risk factors during the baseline period. Such HIV therapy related interventions can be applied at most within 3 years from the start of simulation. Furthermore it is also possible to consider the reversibility of eGFR trend due to tenofovir discontinuation (if tenofovir was included in the current treatment for at least 1 year), as reported in Jose 2014 [15] (Table IV).

	Current situation (%) [mean (IQR)]	Alternative situation (%) [mean (IQR)]	Risk reduction (%) [relative difference]
Risk of ESRD post baseline			
• after 1 year	0.023 (0.0051-0.068)	0.009 (0.002-0.026)	60.9
• after 3 years	0.13 (0.029-0.38)	0.05 (0.011-0.15)	61.5
• after 5 years	0.42 (0.093-1.2)	0.16 (0.036-0.48)	61.9
• after 10 years	1.5 (0.33-4.3)	0.58 (0.13-1.7)	61.3
Mortality post baseline			
• after 1 year	0.77 (0.45-1.5)	0.66 (0.38-1.3)	14.3
• after 3 years	2.7 (1.6-5.3)	2.3 (1.4-4.6)	14.8
• after 5 years	5.2 (3.1-10)	4.5 (2.6-8.8)	13.5
• after 10 years	14 (8.5-28)	13 (7.3-24)	7.1

Table V. ESRD risk and mortality for the patient described in the example and effect of intervention on HIV risk factors

RISK OF ESRD AND MORTALITY

The association eGFR decline with subsequent progression to ESRD and mortality is investigated in a recent paper by Coresh et al. [27]. An individual meta-analysis was conducted on 1.7 million participants with 12,344 ESRD events and 223,944 deaths from 35 cohorts in the CKD Prognosis Consortium.

ESRD is defined as initiation of renal replacement therapy or death due to kidney disease other than acute kidney injury; all-cause mortality are considered as well as cardiovascular (myocardial infarction, heart failure, stroke and sudden cardiac death) and non-cardiovascular mortality are also reported.

Results of the meta-analysis are presented in terms of absolute risk of ESRD or mortality at 1, 3, 5, and 10 years after the baseline period as a function of the first value and the change of eGFR during a 2-year baseline period [27]. Such values are used in this model to estimate ESRD risk and mortality according to simulated progression of renal disease in a 3-years baseline period.

EXAMPLE

Consider a white, male, 50 years old patient with a basal serum creatinine value of 0.8 mg/dl, with hypertension, no diabetes and no macroalbuminuria; he is in treatment for HIV infection (no AIDS) with tenofovir/emtricitabine as backbone and a PI as the third drug. Using CKD-EPI equation, initial eGFR results in 104 ml/min/1.73 m² with an absolute annual reduction of 0.72 that corresponds to 0.007 annual reduction rate (λ_{BASAL}). The eGFR falls below 60 ml/min/1.73 m² after 80 years (T_{CRIT}) reducing to 38 years after applying HIV specific relative risks. By requiring that the eGFR reaches the threshold of 60 ml/min/1.73 m² at T_{CRIT} we get λ_{CRIT} equal to 0.014.

The progression of eGFR during the baseline with these settings (current situation), according to different models, is shown in Figure 1 (continuous lines). If after the first year, patient switch from the current therapy to abacavir/lamivudine + NNRTI, the decreasing in eGFR reduces (Figure 1 – dotted lines). As reference value, the evolution of the same patient without HIV was considered applying only the annual decrease expected due to clinical risk factors.

In the current situation, the mean eGFR during the first year of baseline period is 94 ml/min/1.73 m² with a reduction in 3 years of 36.0% and 17.6%, according to predictions by model 1 model 2, respectively. After 10 years, the risk of ESRD results in 1.5% (IQR: 0.33-4.3%) and mortality in 14% (IQR: 8.5-28%) for both models. The intervention on HIV

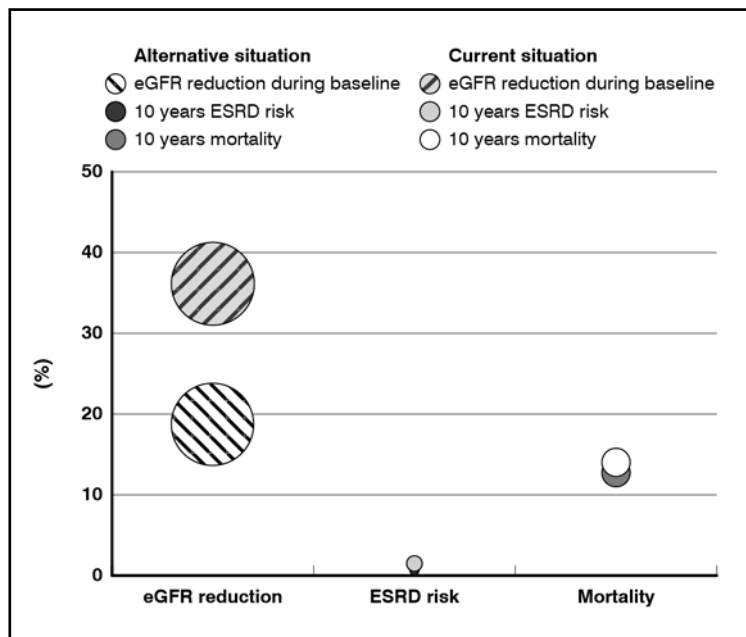


Figure 2. Bubble-plot shows, in order, relative reduction of eGFR in baseline period, 10 years ESRD risk and mortality according to model 1 (bubble size of eGFR reduction represents mean eGFR during first year of simulation while the sizes of ESRD risk and mortality bubbles are proportional to the probability not to exceed the predicted mean values)

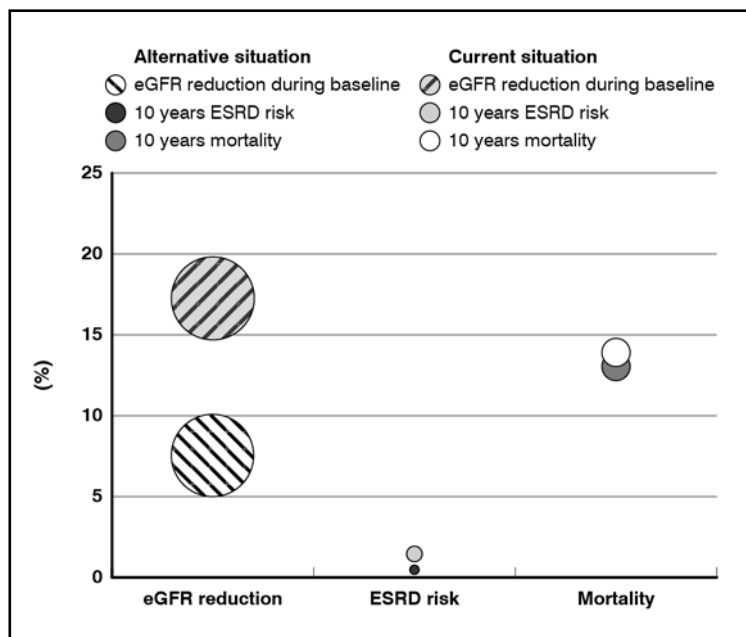


Figure 3. Bubble-plot shows, in order, relative reduction of eGFR in baseline period, 10 years ESRD risk and mortality according to model 2 (bubble size of eGFR reduction represents mean eGFR during first year of simulation while the sizes of ESRD risk and mortality bubbles are proportional to the probability not to exceed the predicted mean values)

risk factors leads to a slowdown in the decay of eGFR: reduction in the first three years is in fact equal to 18.6% for model 1 and 7.3% for model 2 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The new trend in eGFR results in a reduction of over 60% in the risk of ESRD and 7% in mortality. Results for 1, 3, 5 and 10 years after the end of baseline period are reported in Table V.

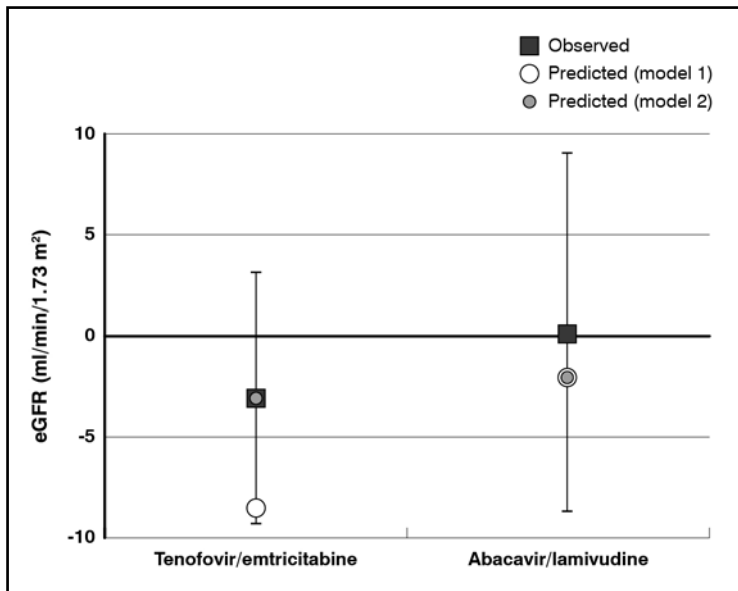


Figure 4. Annual variation in eGFR: comparison between Maggi 2011 and simulation results

MODEL VALIDATION

In order to evaluate the predictive performance of the model, a series of validations are performed using studies selected in the

analysis but not used in the final formulation of the models. These external validations compare data observed in the studies with model predictions obtained simulating the experience of a cohort with the same distribution of risk factors of the patients enrolled in the study; unfortunately, the overlapping among risk factors is not reported in detail in any of such studies, but it had to be inferred from epidemiological data. Furthermore, no study was identified that reported all evaluated outcomes on the same population, so we tested the components of the overall model separately: predicted evolution of eGFR values has been compared (Figure 4) to data reported by Maggi in 2012 [29], while the effect of eGFR declining in a baseline period on risk of ESRD and mortality (Figure 5) was compared with data observed in [30-33], which were clinical studies conducted on a non-HIV population. Overall, the models' predictions compare reasonably well with observed data: if eGFR decrease appears to be slightly overestimated, in particular by model 2 (ICONA-cohort based risks), this is offset by an opposite modest underestimation of subsequent hard end-points incidence.

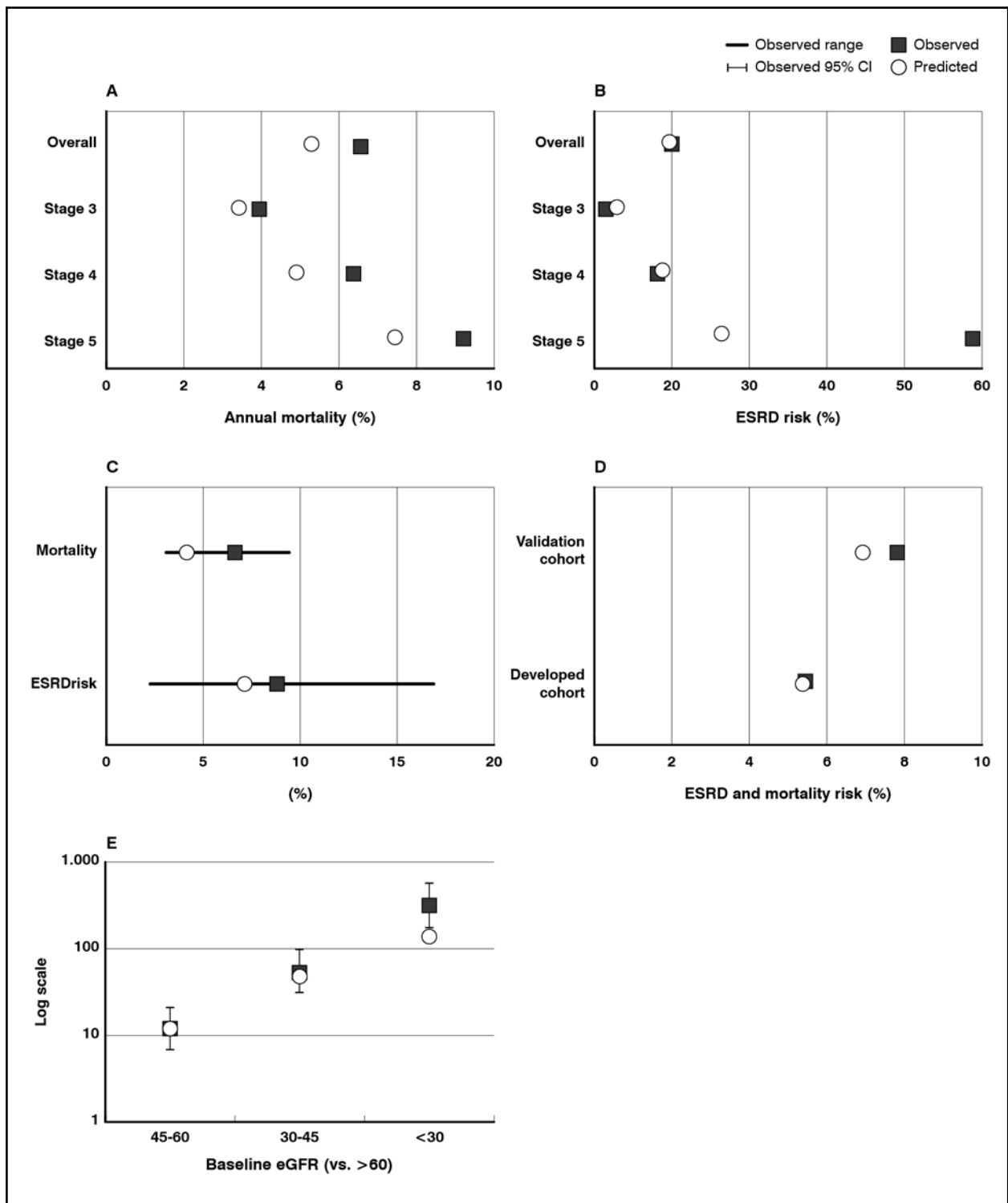


Figure 5. Comparison between simulation results and annual mortality (all-cause mortality) in Landray 2010 [30] (panel A), ESRD risk in Landray 2010 [30] (panel B), ESRD risk and mortality in Desai 2011 [31] (panel C) and in Tangri 2011 [32] (panel D), and risk factor associated with ESRD in Hallan 2009 [33] (panel E – Log scale)

Osteopathy model

BACKGROUND – FRACTURE RISK IN PLHIV

Bone strength is the result of bone mineral density (BMD) and bone microarchitecture. A decrease in BMD leads to deterioration of microarchitecture, leading to critical damage and porosity that weaken bone and increase the probability of fractures [34].

A case-finding approach for a pharmacological treatment appears to be obligatory, at least with the available drugs. In Italy this problem has been approached by the health authorities by granting drug reimbursement only for patients with a higher risk of fracture [35].

In the last years, it has become commonly accepted the notion that the risk of fracture does not depend exclusively by the BMD, but that many other clinical risk factors (CRFs) contribute to influence it. For this reason, Italian NHS identifies the patient to be taken “in charge” based on various CRFs, like fractures history, steroid chronic treatment, smoking, in addition to BMD.

Many instruments have been developed to predict fracture risk, especially in postmenopausal women; among these, FRAX®, with the WHO support, is the most used, estimating 10-years hip or other major osteoporotic fractures (clinical spine, forearm, hip or shoulder fracture) probability. The algorithm has been developed from studying population-based cohorts from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

In Italy, as done in other countries, a national version of this model, called DeFRA, has been implemented in order to use it for regulatory scopes.

Despite HIV infection is one of the most recently identified factor that leads to accelerated bone loss, with up to 25% of HIV-infected patients fulfilling osteoporosis criteria and up to 50% those for osteopenia [36-38], both the national and the original versions of the algorithm do not include it among CRF.

The high morbidity, mortality and management cost associated to bone fractures [39] make optimal monitoring and appropriate treatment essential, especially for patients at high risk, such as the HIV-infected population.

The present model has been planned to evaluate fracture risk in HIV-infected patients, based on the probability rate estimated by DeFRA adjusted for the HIV condition and for the administration of antiretroviral drugs with a well-known musculoskeletal toxicity. Furthermore, the desired model had to be able to predict the temporal evolution of the risk, taking into account the impact of possible interventions on modifiable CRFs.

FRACTURE RISK EVALUATION

HIV-free fracture risk

The 10-year risk (10 YR) of multiple major fractures is calculated using DeFRA algorithm:

$$\text{logit (10YR)} = a_1\text{Age} + a_2\text{Age}^2 + a_3\text{Age}^3 + a_4\text{BMI} + a_5\text{BMI}^2 + a_6\text{T} + a_7\text{T}^2 + (a_8\text{Age} + a_9\text{BMI})\text{T} + \text{const}$$

where age is expressed in years, BMI is the body mass index and T is the T-score. Coefficients of equation are reported in Table VI. Hip fracture incidence accounts for 13-33% of all non-vertebral fractures in the placebo arm of the largest RCTs focus on osteoporotic treatment [40-44]. According to a recent cost-effectiveness analysis performed by Adami et al. [45] we assume a proportion of hip

Coefficients	Multiple clinical fractures
a_1	-0.54072
a_2	0.00875
a_3	-0.00004
a_4	0.08077
a_5	-0.00145
a_6	-0.00654
a_7	0.08938
a_8	-0.00148
a_9	-0.00102
const	5.98739

Table VI. Coefficients of DeFRA algorithm equations

Clinical risk factor	DeFRA risk gradients	
	Hip fracture	Multiple clinical fractures
Family history of hip fracture	1.6	1.2
Corticosteroid use ¹		
• > 5 mg prednisone equivalents	2.5	2.5
• 2.5-5 mg prednisone equivalents	1.8	1.6
Previous vertebral or hip fracture ²		
• One	2.2	2.2
• More than one	4.0	4.0
Previous non-traumatic non-hip non-vertebral fracture ²	1.4	1.4
Alcohol (> 3 units /day) ³	1.5	1.2
Smoking ⁴		
• <10 cigarettes /day	1.2	1.0
• >10 cigarettes /day	1.9	1.5
Rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondyloarthritis, any connective tissue disease	1.3	1.2

Table VII. Gradients associated with each clinical risk factor (CRF) for the DeFRA project

¹ Applicable to patients on corticosteroid therapy for more than 3 months. Prior treatment courses are not considered.

² A fragility fracture is a fracture sustained after falling from a height not exceeding the body height or occurring after minimal or no trauma. Morphometric (even asymptomatic) moderate or severe (Genant- method) vertebral fractures are also included.

³ Currently drinking 3 or more units of alcohol. A unit of alcohol is defined as a 285 ml glass of beer, a 120 ml glass of wine, a 60 ml measure of aperitif, or a 30 ml measure of spirit.

⁴ Current smoking only; previous smoking is not considered.

fracture of 20% corresponding to moderate to severe risk patients.

Once applied relative risks associated with CFRs, annual fracture rates are obtained from 10-year risks supposing an exponential growth trend of the risk.

Clinical risk factors

After the age of 40, the history of a previous fracture is one of the strongest CRF for new incident fractures [46-53]. The mean RR is 2.2, but the value depends on age and on the site and number of previous fractures [47,52,54].

A parenteral history of hip fracture is associated with a significant risk both of all osteoporotic fractures and of hip fracture; the

risk results independent of BMD [55]. Also a family history of any fracture in parents was associated with a modest but significantly increased risk of any osteoporotic fracture and of hip fracture [55].

Smoking is a risk factor in particular for hip fractures, in part due to its negative effects on BMD and BMI. Smoking increases fracture risk even independently of age, BMD and BMI [56]. The relative risk depends considerably on the number of cigarettes per day and it decreases with time since smoking cessation [57].

Alcoholism is widely considered as a CRF for osteoporotic fractures and low bone density, with effects varying in a non-linear way according to intake [58]. Generally no significant increase in risk is observed at daily intakes of less than 3 units while above this threshold, alcohol intake is associated with an increased risk factor both of hip and multiple fractures [59,60].

One of the most serious complications of corticosteroids is osteoporosis and an increased fracture risk. The increased risk is more strongly related to daily dose than to the cumulative dose with a monotonic relationship [48]. Several early studies documented an increased fracture risk in subjects with rheumatoid [61-63] and psoriatic arthritis [64], ankylosing spondyloarthritis [65-66] and in general with any connective tissue disease.

Relative risks associated with each CRF described above and used in the model are reported in Table VII.

HIV risk factors

The association between HIV infection and increased risk of fragility fracture was explored by Womack et al. by Cox regression models in male Veterans enrolled in the Veterans Aging Cohort Study Virtual [67]. After adjusting for demographics, comorbid disease, smoking, alcohol abuse and BMI, HIV infection results associated with a trend towards an increased fracture risk (HR: 1.10; 95% CI: 0.97-1.25).

Specific analyses carried out on female samples [68-69] revealed no excess risk in patients infected, so in the model no risk factor for women was introduced.

While HIV infection itself has adverse skeletal effects, the introduction of HAART may also contribute to accelerated bone loss [70]. Previous studies have suggested that ARVs drugs differ in their impact on bone health: tenofovir (TDF) has been found to be associated with a greater decline in BMD than stavudine [71] or abacavir [72]. Also, earlier studies had suggested that exposure to protease inhibitors (PIs) decreased BMD [73],

HIV risk factor	Hazard Ratio (HR)	
	Male	Female
HIV infection	1.10	1.00
TDF	1.11	1.11
PI	1.10	1.10
TDF+PI	1.16	1.16

Table VIII. Influence of HIV infection and HAART therapy on annual osteoporotic fracture risk

and it has been recently suggested that atazanavir is associated with increased risk of osteoporosis, compared to efavirenz [72]. Finally, antiretroviral initiation has been shown to be associated with a rapid and significant increase in levels of serologic markers of increased bone turnover (which might signify increased bone fragility) [74-76].

The work of Bedimo et al. [77] was indicated by the expert panel as the most complete and consistent source, since it evaluated the effect of cumulative exposure to both TDF and PI. Four different exposure categories were selected:

- Exposure to neither TDF nor PI (referent category);
- Exposure to TDF, but not PI;
- Exposure to PI, but not TDF;
- Concomitant exposure to TDF and PI.

Concomitant exposure to both TDF and PI associated with a greater osteoporotic fracture risk (HR: 1.16; 95% CI: 1.04-1.30) than exposure to either TDF without PI (HR: 1.11; 95% CI: 1.01-1.21) or PI without TDF (HR: 1.10; 95% CI: 1.01-1.22).

All values applied to annual fracture rates in the model are summarized in Table VIII.

Complex fracture risk

By averaging the fracture incidence ratios observed in the most important pivotal trials it is apparent that approximately 25% of major fractures are identified vertebral fractures, which comprise 33% of all vertebral fractures [45]. Major clinical fractures are on average made up of 25% vertebral fractures, 20% hip fractures and 55% other non-vertebral fractures.

Complex fracture risk (including non-clinical vertebral fracture) thus results in the sum of clinical fracture risk and twice clinical vertebral fracture risk.

EXAMPLE

Baseline patient characteristics and clinical/HIV risk factors are reported in Table IX.

The current situation is compared with two interventions:

1. A first intervention on lifestyle (no alcohol and no smoking);
2. A second intervention on ART therapy (tenofovir and PI/r discontinuation).

Resulting fracture risks are reported in Table X.

MODEL VALIDATION

As for the nephropathy model, also for the prediction of fracture risk, a series of validations are performed using studies not used in

Baseline value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: 40 years • BMI: 22.86 • T-score: -1
Clinical risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No family history of hip fracture • Corticosteroid use >5 mg • None previous fracture • Alcohol (>3 units /day) • Smoking <10 cigarettes /day
HIV risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenofovir/emtricitabine • Atazanavir/r

Table IX. Patient characteristics

	Fracture risk (%)			
	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5	Year 10
Current scenario				
• Hip fracture	0.8	2.3	3.8	7.5
• Major clinical fracture	2.4	7.0	11.3	21.4
First intervention				
• Hip fracture	0.3	0.8	1.3	2.6
• Major clinical fracture	1.3	3.8	6.2	12.0
Second intervention				
• Hip fracture	0.2	0.7	1.1	2.3
• Major clinical fracture	1.1	3.3	5.4	10.5

Table X. Estimated fracture risk in current and modified scenarios

the final formulation of the model. These external validations compare data observed in the studies with model predictions obtained simulating the experience of a cohort with the same distribution of risk factors of the

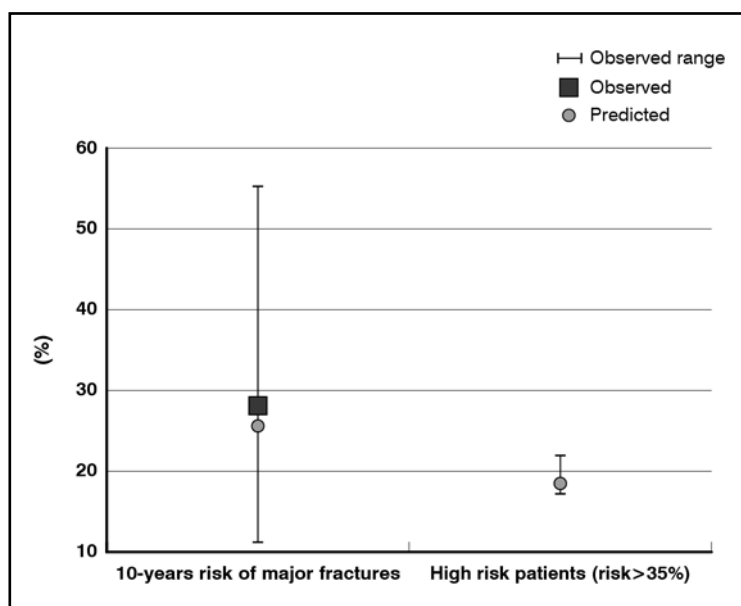


Figure 6. Comparison between simulation results and 10-years risk of fracture in Johansson 2004 [78]

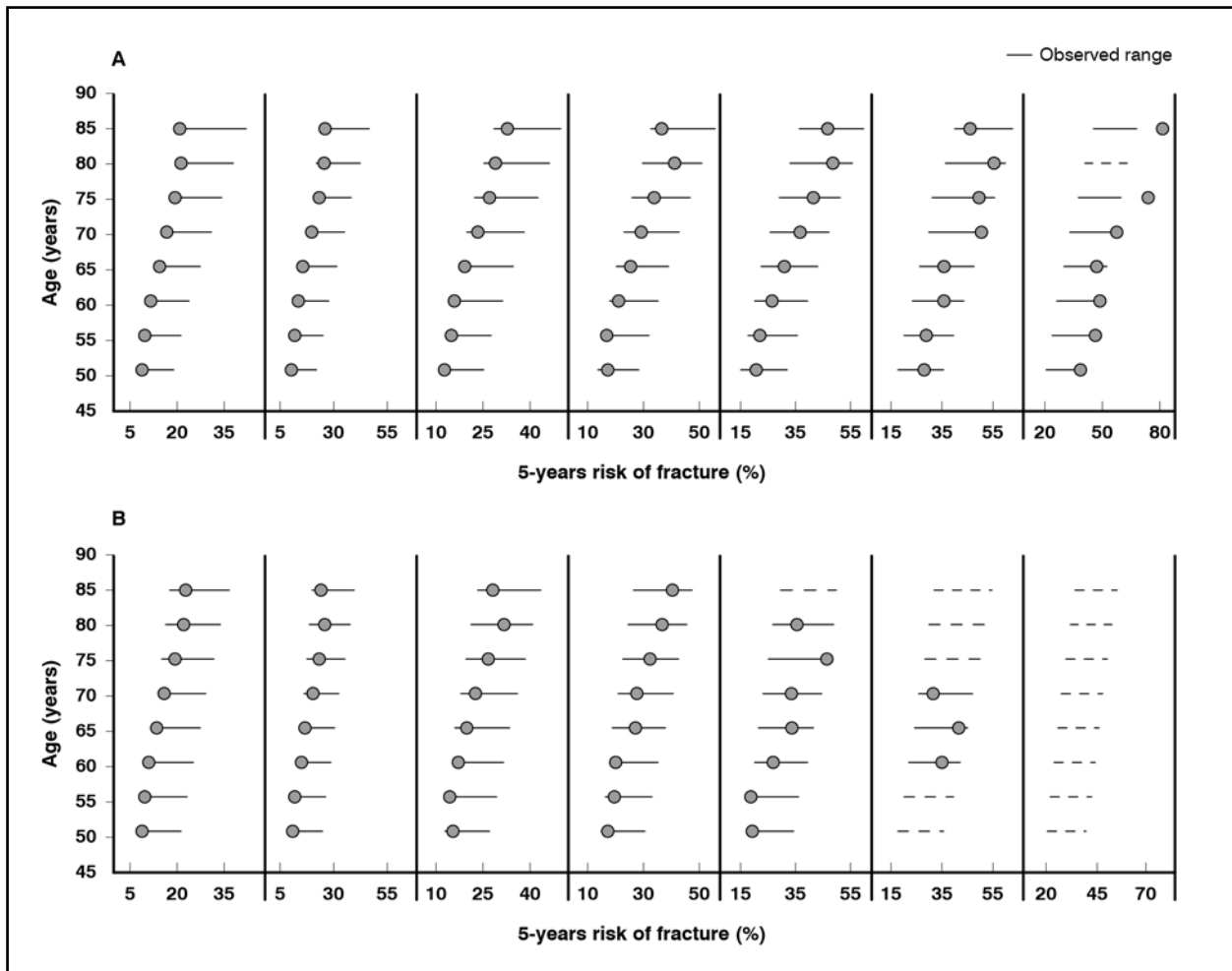


Figure 7. Comparison between simulation results and 5-years risk of fracture based on age and femoral T-score in women (panel A) and in men in Kregge 2013 [79]

patients enrolled in the study; unfortunately, the overlapping among risk factors is not reported in detail in any of such studies, but it had to be inferred from epidemiological data and clinical knowledge.

The Figure 6 and Figure 7 report and compare the results of such simulated trials with the results reported in the papers. Again, the cohort- and subgroup-level predictions

compare reasonably well with the observed data, although some underestimation in the fracture risk is detected when comparing with Johansson 2004 [78] and the low risk subgroups in Kraege 2013 [79], while the opposite (slight overestimation) is observed for the high-risk subgroups in the latter study. In any case, all predictions fall within the reported confidence intervals.



Discussion and conclusions

HAART changed the natural history of HIV infection, transforming it in a chronic disease. In common with other chronic disease, the life-long exposure to therapeutic regimens is associated with an increased risk of secondary co-morbidities. We feel that the current perceptions of this risk increase, and the corresponding managing skills of treating physicians, are far from being optimal, and therefore aimed at developing a practical tool that could aid them to assess these risks and the potential of interventions to modulate them. Concentrating on renal function and fracture risk, we reviewed the available literature and propose two disease progression models build upon the most reliable sources, as assessed by confrontation with infectivologists and expert clinicians in the respective fields. HIV-specific risk factors identified through this process (Infection itself, AIDS, and components of HAART) were integrated with published risk prediction models to establish these proposed models.

Some cohort-level validation runs performed by simulating clinical trials providing both the needed input data and outcome indicators show that the presented models are able to reproduce average results with acceptable

accuracy. For a rigorous and formal testing of the predictive capability of the models, however, the predictions should be compared at the individual level on a large clinical database: this type of analysis is planned in the near future.

Nevertheless, given the practical aim of the tools, we believe that their capability of correctly indicating the expected course of the disease, and to be sensitive to the interplay of concomitant risk factors, is reassuring in regard to their intended use: providing a rational, credible and easily usable aid for a more informed decision-making process in HAART prescribing.

Furthermore, the ability of the present models to reliably predict hard outcomes at the cohort level render them suitable to be included in pharmacoeconomic simulation models developed for the comparative assessment of the economical consequences of different prescribing strategies that expand their focus beyond pharmaceutical acquisition costs, taking into the right consideration other items of healthcare resource consumption, in particular those needed for monitoring and managing the comorbidities of HIV in the HAART era.

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