

Oral Abstract Presentations 1

#4 The Frequency and Yield of Cryptococcal Antigen Screening among Newly Diagnosed and Anti-Retroviral Therapy Experienced HIV Patients in Rural Uganda

Joseph Baluku, Uganda



The frequency and yield of cryptococcal antigen screening among anti-retroviral therapy (ART) naïve and ART-experienced HIV-infected patients in rural Uganda



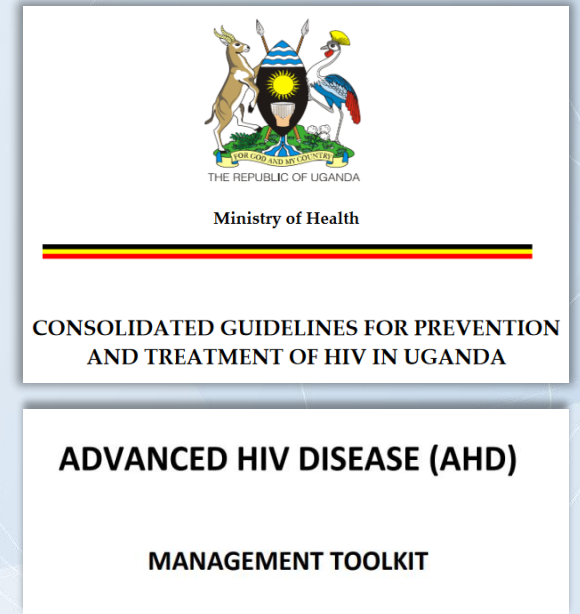
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*Has no conflict of interests to declare

This project has been supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through CDC under the terms of 1NU2GGH002046-01-00

Background

- Cryptococcal meningitis accounts for **15% of HIV related deaths**¹
- Programmatic CrAg screening and fluconazole can **avert 43% of these deaths**^{2,3}
- WHO⁴ recommends **CrAg screening for ART-naive PLHIV** with CD4<100/200 cells/mm³
- Local guidelines recommend screening among ART-experienced PLHIV with VL non-suppression (VL > 1,000 copies/ml)

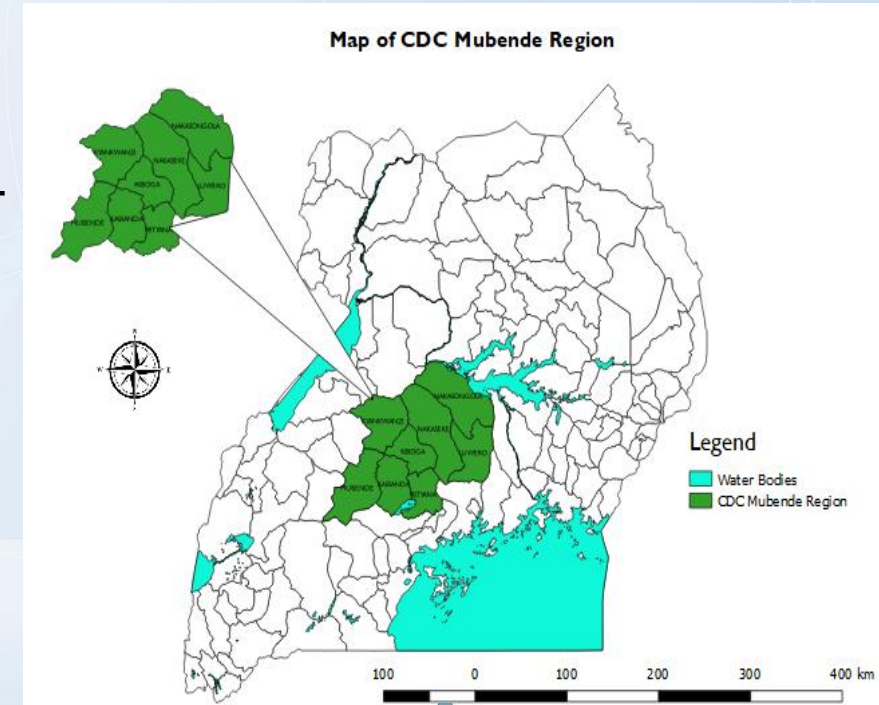


¹Lancet Infect Dis. 2017 Aug;17(8):873–81, ²Open Forum Infect. Dis. 2, ofv046, ³J. Acquir. Immune Defic. Syndr. 1999 80, 182–189, ⁴World Health Organization, 2018. Guidelines for the diagnosis, prevention, and management of cryptococcal disease in HIV-infected adults, adolescents and children

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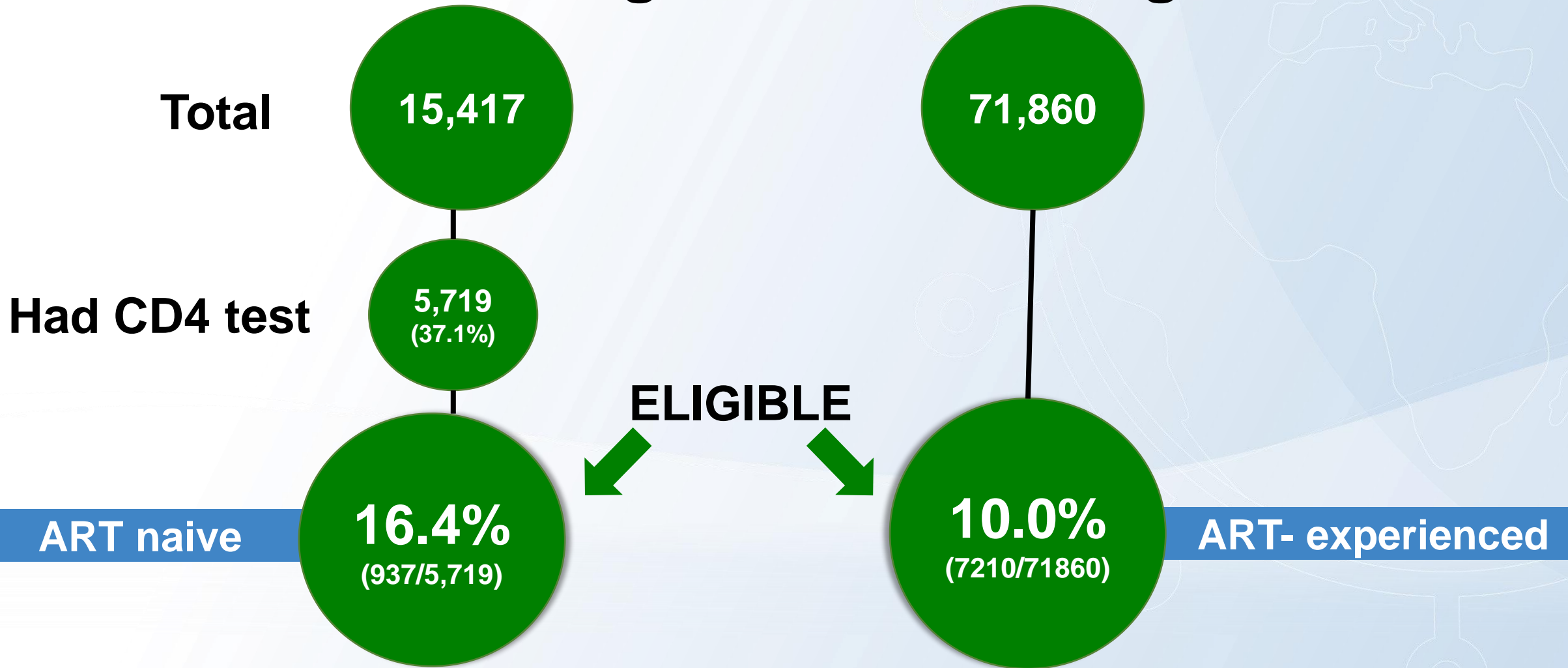
Methods

- **Objective:** compare frequency and yield of CrAg screening among ART-naïve PLHIV and ART-experienced PLHIV with VL- NS.
- **Eligible:** ART-naïve (CD4 <100) and ART-experienced (VL > 1,000 copies after 6 months of ART)
- **Sites:** 104 public health facilities in rural central Uganda
- **Data sources:** Routine programmatic reports (July 2018 – July 2019)
- **Analysis:** Descriptive, Pearson's/Fisher's tests



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Results: Eligible for screening



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Results: Frequency of screening

Eligible

8,147

Screened

21.1%
(1721/8147)

ART naive

95.1%
(891/937)

$p < 0.001$

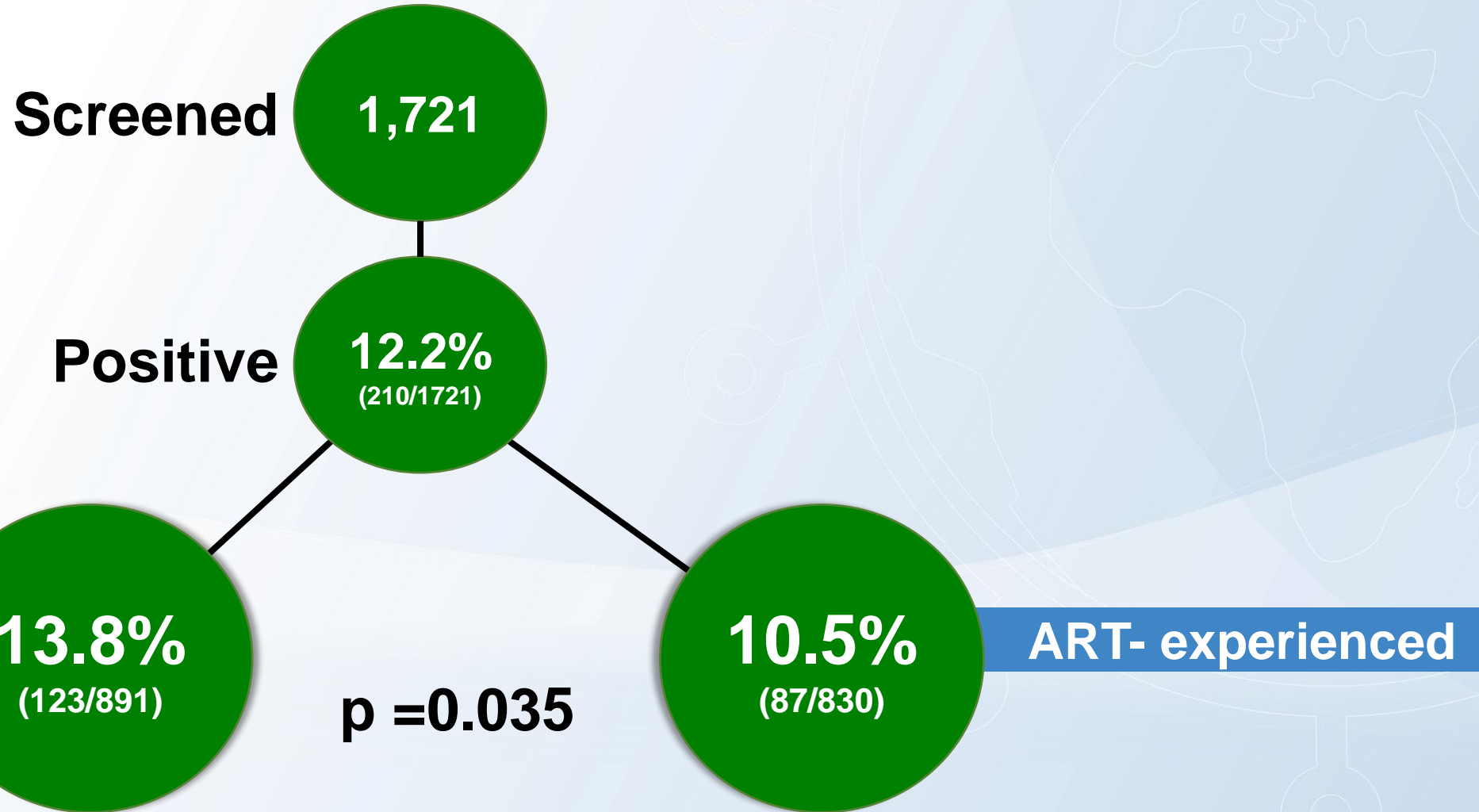
ART- experienced

11.5%
(830/7210)

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Results: CrAg positive



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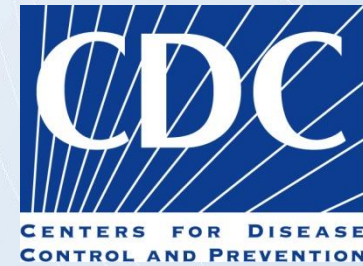
Discussion and Conclusion

- **CrAg positivity was high** among ART- experienced with VL NS (cf. 3.0%¹)
- There was **low frequency of screening** for CrAg among ART - experienced with VL NS:
 - Changes in guidelines
 - Delays from receiving VL results to tracing patients for CrAg screening
 - Stock out of supplies
- Many **ART-naïve were also lost** along the cascade (only 37% had CD4 test)
- Need for studies to evaluate **cost effectiveness** and **impact of VL-directed CrAg screening** on outcomes of ART – experienced PLHIV

¹*Clinical Infectious Diseases*, ciz1069, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciz1069>

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