HIV in Tlemcen: inventory of the knowledge of the young population on the subject

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Introduction / objectives:
Algeria, like other countries on the African continent, is facing the AIDS disaster and its influence on social and economic development. It remains a taboo subject, related to a problem of behavior, and more particularly of knowledge.
Our objective was to evaluate the knowledge of the young population of Tlemcen on the virus, its transmission and especially the means of prevention.

Material and method :
It is a cross-sectional study with prospective collection concerning the evaluation of the states of knowledge of the young population of Tlemcen (350 people between 16 and 40 years old). Variables were collected from survey sheets which were individually completed by the analyzed subjects.

Results:
12.3% of our population did not know the exact meaning of the acronym HIV and AIDS. Even worst, 6.29% thought that an HIV positive patient was actually a positive blood type person.
Among the means of transmission aberrations were founds: scratching by infected person (44.57%), mosquitoes biting (38.57%), sanitary sharing with an infected person (22%).
Regarding prevention, 41.14% of participants did not think that a condom is an effective mean of protection and 33.71% of our population thought that a screening test returnes positive 24 hours after the last high-risk behaviour.
Finally, 25% said that VIH can be cured .

Conclusion:
In order to limit the spread of sexually transmitted infections, and more particularly HIV, the development of a program of care by broad awareness campaigns is becoming essential in Algeria.

Key words: HIV in Tlemcen, knowledge, young population, Transmission, Prevention.