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PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS RISK FACTORS AND CHANGES IN BODY
WEIGHT AMONG THE HIV-INFECTED POPULATION

Saliev D.Q, Makhsumova D.K, Sheraliyev A.B

Introduction. As is well known, independent risk factors that contribute to the development and exacerbation of chronic gastroduodenal diseases (CGDD) include infectious factors (such as *Helicobacter pylori* infection, HPI) and changes in body weight, both in the direction of reduction (underweight, UW) and increase (overweight, OW). Therefore, this study investigated these factors within the HIV-infected population and identified the "epidemiological pathways" linking HIV infection to CGDD in the examined individuals.

Materials and Methods. An epidemiological survey of the HIV-infected population was conducted on a representative sample using epidemiological, clinical, and specialized diagnostic methods for HIV infection. Body weight and infectious factors were assessed according to WHO recommendations (WHO, 1997). The urease test was used to detect *Helicobacter pylori* infection (HPI), and HIV infection was diagnosed following the WHO classification (2006) with the involvement of specialists from regional AIDS prevention centers.

Results and Conclusions. The results of our analysis show that among the HIV-infected population aged 20–69 years, *Helicobacter pylori* infection (HPI) was observed in 94.3% of cases, and underweight (UW) in 83.0% of cases. Overweight (OW) was significantly less common, with a prevalence of 4.4%. The distribution of these risk factors among HIV-infected women and men was as follows: HPI: 92.4% in women and 96.3% in men ($p > 0.05$), UW: 72.6% in women and 94.3% in men ($p < 0.05$), OW: 3.4% in women and 4.9% in men ($p > 0.05$).

We found that UW occurred 20.7 times more frequently than OW in the study population ($p < 0.001$). Additionally, compared to OW, the infectious factor of dysbiosis, associated with chronic gastroduodenal diseases, was observed 23 times more often ($p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$). Men exhibited a higher prevalence of these risk factors compared to women: HPI: 3.9% higher ($p < 0.05$), UW: 21.7% higher ($p < 0.05$), OW: 1.5% higher ($p > 0.05$).

