Project Title: An assessment of cardiovascular risk factors and their management amongst patients infected with HIV

Host School/ Institute: Central Clinical School
Address: Renal Unit, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Sexual Health Clinic, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital


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Project Type: Clinical

Project Category: Cardiovascular, Chronic Diseases/Illness, Nephrology/Urology, Sexual health

Project Keywords:
1. cardiovascular risk
2. screening for clinical risk
3. management of risk factors
4. HIV infection
5. non-infectious co-morbidities

Project Description:

Background
With widespread access to modern antiretroviral medications (ARVs) in Australia, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has become a chronic, treatable condition. Because of the increased life expectancy and the effectiveness of modern ARVs the clinical manifestations of HIV infection have changed, with non-infectious complications now predominating. Amongst these, cardiovascular disease is an important consideration. HIV-infected patients have an overrepresentation of cardiovascular risk factors, such as hypertension, diabetes and dyslipidaemia. Screening for cardiovascular risk is the focus of this project.

Proposed Methods
We propose a retrospective assessment of cardiovascular risk factors, to be undertaken at the Sexual Health Clinic at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. An assessment of risk for renal disease is underway, so the database that has been established could be easily interrogated with a focus on cardiovascular risk factors. An assessment of the patients’ clinical parameters (such as current blood pressure) would also be undertaken. Individual patient risk and the current management of risk factors would be assessed. This project would be performed under the supervision of A/Prof David Gracey, Renal Unit RPA and A/Prof Catherine O’Connor, Sexual Health Clinic, RPA. Areas for improvement in clinical practice and performance compared to current clinical guidelines would be identified.

Outcomes
It is expected that this project would contribute to the clinical care of the patients in the Sexual Health Clinic at RPA, as well as obtaining data that would be used in a presentation at a national meeting and be published in a peer-review medical journal.