## CHAPTER 77

# The Impact of Pandemic COVID-19 on Human Immunodeficiency Virus **Patients: A Brief Integrative Literature Review**





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#### ABSTRACT

Objective: To describe the impact of the pandemic of COVID-19 on patients living with human immunodeficiency virus. Methods: This is a descriptive and exploratory research; the search for data was conducted through the Virtual Health Library (VHL), SCIELO (Scientifie Electronic Library Online), and CAPES Periodicals. For the selection of articles, it was taken into consideration the application of inclusion criteria: publications between 2020 and 2022 and exclusion: publications before the year 2020. Results: According to the research carried out it was necessary to do a bibliographic survey on top of the keywords: human immunodeficiency virus, SARS-CoV-2, and CD4, where we saw that many of these articles were related to patients living with HIV/AIDS and that in the isolation period, the same ones for remained without doing some tests such as CD4 and leading, at the same time, the hospitalization of the same ones in the reference units for COVID-19. Final Considerations: However, it is not known if the infection by HIV/AIDS associated with low CD4 levels, when not controlled correctly, can lead to a greater risk for SARS-CoV-2, because it is a potent virus.

Keywords: Antigen, CD4; COVID-19; HIV.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In December 2019, an unknown SARS-CoV-2 viral infection began in the city of Wuhan, located in China. This Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome 2, where its main etiological agent is a virus that belongs to the Nidovirales family and the Coronaviridae lineage, having positive ribonucleic acid (RNA) as responsible. The infection caused by this was defined as COVID-19, which has reached more than 27 million people around the world so far, making it a challenging pandemic for the World Health Organization (WHO) and other public bodies of health. health (RODRIGUES; GALLI, 2022; DUARTE<sup>1</sup>; QUITANA, 2020).

In Brazil, the scenario was devastating, especially in the face of governments that were oblivious to the situation experienced by all, where social vulnerability made it difficult for people

who experienced the greatest social inequality to have access to health care. Access to health at the moment is not limited to health equipment, but comprises the right established by the organic health law, the Federal Government, State and Municipalities have to guarantee education, food, basic sanitation, housing, among others, and safety. financial support that make it possible to maintain social isolation without government assistance (SILVA; CEIA; TAVARES, 2020; CHIORO et al., 2021).

In September 2020, the country accumulated more than 126,000 deaths from the new Coronavirus , after its contamination and symptoms were confirmed, medical intervention and care carried out immediately had a deadline for satisfactory results, but many of these patients could not go beyond 14 days of treatment. treatment and died. The symptoms were confused with those of a flu or virus, the protocols implemented in the countries took a long time to get off the ground, as it was common to arrive at the health units with fever, cough and fatigue, and diarrhea , dyspnea , hemoptysis, headache and lymphopenia could also occur (TEIXEIRA et al., 2020; SILVA et al., 2021).

After the control measures and protocols signed between the countries and their health regulatory agencies, such as the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) in partnership with the Ministry of Health and its secretariats in the Brazilian states, it was determined that patients with these symptoms had priority to be tested for COVID-19 and for many of these patients it was too late, as some had age and comorbidities against them even though they left their immune system defenseless (SANTOS, 2021).

Analyzing the relationship between immune response and severe acute respiratory syndrome virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection, the disease that affects immunocompromised people, especially those living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or the Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), we know that the HIV virus was discovered in 1983, despite this, the policies implemented still represent an important public health problem in Brazil (ALCOCHETE; CATUMBELA, 2020).

In 2020, there were about 37.7 million people living with HIV, among them 36 million are adults, 1.7 million are children (0 to 14 years old). When talking about gender, 53% of people living with HIV are women and girls, and those living with HIV 84% are aware of their clinical condition. Even so, we have those who did not know that they were living with or that they had HIV, about 6.1 million people. In the current scenario, the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation had to be carried out, which made it difficult for this population at risk to access health services, thus hampering the diagnosis of new cases and the monitoring of seropositive individuals (UNIDAS, 2022). ).

Coronavirus pandemic, a more careful and targeted look at people living with HIV/AIDS should be taken, considering the clinical implications of COVID-19 that may have on the health of this immunologically vulnerable population. In addition, it is necessary to count the cluster of differentiation 4 or cluster of differentiation (CD4) which will measure the amount of lymphocytes present in the body. In Brazil, these tests are free, and the population had access to them, and the expected results can demonstrate

the stability of the infection are those in which CD4 cells are in large numbers (COSTA SOUZA et al., 2020).

Faced with the clinical picture of several of the patients affected by the HIV virus, and with this arrival of a new virus such as SARSCoV-2 highly destructive with apparent symptoms of a common flu. This new virus has thrombolytic action in blood vessels and arteries, which lead to pulmonary and coronary complications. In this context, there was curiosity to know how patients living with HIV are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and whether there have been sudden changes due to a new infection associated with the HIV virus. Since CD4 cells are highly immune cells, where they have the function of fighting the invaders that are active during their mutation by the acquired syndrome and at the same time the bone marrow has to redouble its production of defense cells.

The aim of this study is to describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients living with the human immunodeficiency virus.

### 2 METHODS

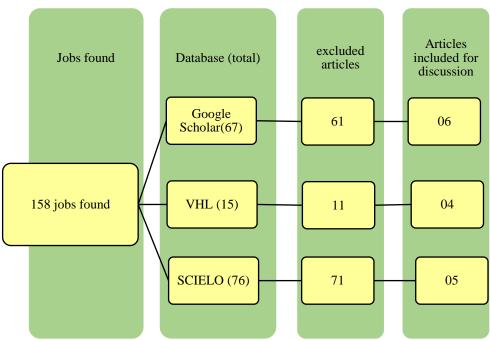
This is a descriptive and exploratory research, in the form of integrative review. Data collection took place in a virtual way, with a search for articles in databases such as: Virtual Health Library (BVS), SCIELO (Scientifie Electronic Library Online), CAPES Periodicals (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) and university websites that contained published scientific works.

For the selection of articles, the application of inclusion criteria was taken into account: publications between 2020 and 2022, full-text articles, publications in Portuguese and English, free of charge and that met the objectives of the integrative review. Exclusion criteria: publications prior to 2020 and unpublished articles.

#### 3 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results obtained since the initial search were 158 articles in the following bases: Virtual Health Library (VHL), Google Scholar, *Scientific Electronic Library* (SCIELO), which contained published scientific works. Referring to the years 2020 to 2022, where we apply inclusion and exclusion criteria through careful reading to carry out the selection of publications.

Figure 1 : Flowchart of selection and inclusion of articles in the review.



Source: Prepared by the author, 2022.

In Google Scholar, 67 articles were initially found, after applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 06 articles corresponding to the theme were used. In the VHL platform initially 15 articles were obtained, after applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, only 04 articles corresponding to the theme were used. Initially, 76 articles were found on the SCIELO platform, after applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, it was found that the articles with titles referring to the topic were repeated on the other platforms, therefore, we obtained 05 articles used.

Therefore, the selected articles totaled 11 articles, which will make up the discussion of the present study. As described in **Table 1**.

Table 1 - Categorization of research according to author/year, title, methodological bases, results and conclusion.

AUTHOR/YEAR	TITLE	BASES	RESULTS	CONCLUSION
		METHODOLOGICAL		
ALVES et al.,	Clinical	Integrative Literature	The clinical picture	Some of the data that
2021.	consequences of	Review	presented by the	showed the greatest
	COVID-19 in people		patients	discrepancy, such as the
	with HIV/AIDS: an		coinfected with	high
	integrative literature		COVID-19 and	mortality rate, younger
	review		HIV did not show	than usual age, and the
			differences when	presence of severe
			compared	dyspnea symptoms,
			to patients without	can be justified by the
			HIV. It was	high prevalence of
			observed that other	comorbidities in the
			comorbidities	analyzed population.
			influenced	Therefore, it cannot be
			consequences of	said that these
			the clinical course	characteristics
			of patients,	presented by patients
			regardless of the	

BARBOSA, 2022.	DEVELOPMENTS OF THE IMMUNOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO HIV VIRUS INFECTION: A SYSTEMATIC	Descriptive Study	co-infection with HIV. Thus, the results showed discrepancies, not making it possible to evidence the clinical worsening of COVID-19 by the presence of HIV.  Defense mechanisms against HIV infection begin with the entry of the virus through	are exclusively derived from HIV infection.  Opportunistic infections that occur in HIV/AIDS patients are mainly related to the depletion of CD4+ T lymphocytes caused by the virus.
	REVIEW		the epithelial barrier, mediated by chemokine receptors CCR5 and CXCR4 and the cell surface molecule CD4.	
DAYS, 2022.	Vaccines to combat COVID-19: their differences related to forms of production, immune response and efficacy	Comparative Method	In addition to the form of vaccine production, this study also aims to point out the characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, such as its viral structure and its mode of replication and dissemination, so that a better understanding of the disease and its etiological agent can be achieved.	vaccines; More than 175 research teams around the world were
FALAVIGNA et al., 2022.	Brazilian guidelines for the pharmacological treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19: Joint guideline of the Brazilian Association of Emergency Medicine, Brazilian Association of Intensive Medicine, Brazilian Medical Association, Brazilian Society of Angiology and Vascular Surgery, Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases, Brazilian Society of Pulmonology and	Descriptive Study	recommendations were generated. These include strong recommendations for the use of corticosteroids in patients on supplemental oxygen, for the use of anticoagulants in prophylaxis doses for thromboembolism, and for not using antibacterials in patients without suspected bacterial infection.	To date, few therapies have proven effective in the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19, with only corticosteroids and prophylaxis for

	Tisiology and Society			
FERREIRA; SANTOS, 2022.	Building nodes: parallels and lessons between HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 from the analysis of semantic networks on Twitter	Quanti -qualitative method of semantic network analysis	As a result, we identified the political-partisan polarization of comments about COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS on Twitter, the reemergence of stigmas associated with specific groups, such as homosexuals and Asians, and the large-scale spread of misinformation about the two diseases, revealing a field of tensions and narrative and media disputes as a 'necropolitics'	Our theoretical and empirical trajectory allowed us to arrive at some considerations. The posts by Brazilians about HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 in April 2021 indicate that discussing, in this case, public health in the Brazil is also talking about (necro) politics, stigma and excessive circulation of (mis) information on websites and social networks.
GONÇALVES et al., 2021.	Analysis of the release of NETs by neutrophils from people living with HIV, and their effect on the replication of HIV-1 in macrophages	Field research.	High levels of DNA- elastase complexes in plasma were observed, which correlate positively with the concentration of circulating LPS, and that neutrophils from these individuals are able to release NETs in vitro upon activation with IL-8 and TNF-α. This suggests that HIV-1 infection enhances the formation and circulation of NETs and that microbial translocation may contribute to this phenomenon. It was also observed that NETs reduce viral replication in macrophages infected in vitro by HIV-1 and that recombinant myeloperoxidase is able to reproduce this inhibition. Furthermore, a reduction in the integration of the viral cDNA into the host cell genome	These results, therefore, indicate the participation of NETs in the pathophysiology of HIV-1 infection.

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			was observed, which explains, at	
			least in part, the	
			inhibition of	
			replication by the	
			NETs.	
KREWER et al.,	Rhodococcus Equi	Descriptive Study.	It has three levels	In the last decade,
2022.			of virulence	important advances have
			according to the different antigens	been made in understanding the
			expressed on its	mechanisms used by R.
			surface. Virulent	equi to proliferate in the
			strains have a	host. Currently, research
			plasmid encoding	has focused on
			the surface protein	identifying the molecular
			VapA and are	bases used by R.equi.
			mainly isolated from foals with	
			pneumonia and	
			from some human	
			patients. Strains	
			with intermediate	
			virulence express	
			the VapB protein	
			and predominate in swine and humans	
			with AIDS.	
RODRIGUES;	Pathophysiological	Descriptive and	The results found	It is concluded that we
GALLI, 2022.	analysis of clinical	Qualitative Integrative	indicate that the	are dealing with a
	respiratory	Review.	pathophysiological	specific type of
	manifestations in		changes manifested	pneumonia that has a
	people infected with the SARS-CoV-2		in SARS-CoV-2 infection have	progressive and fatal
	virus.		characteristics	involvement, leading to the destruction of
	viius.		closely similar to	pulmonary structures
			those found in	essential for the
			severe acute	diffusion of gases
			respiratory	(hematosis).
			syndrome (SARS -	
			CoV ) and middle	
			east respiratory syndrome (MERS-	
			CoV ), which are	
			triggered by other	
			pathogens of the	
			coronavirus family	
NAPOLEÃO et	COVID-19:	Literature revision.	In some	It is concluded that
NAPOLEAO et al., 2021.	Understanding the	Literature revision.	In some individuals, the	It is concluded that elevations in serum
, 2021.	"Cytokine Storm"		exacerbated	levels of pro-
			response of the	inflammatory cytokines
			immune system	are usually present in
			causes the	severe COVID-19.
			hyperstimulation of	However, more studies
			its defense cells, causing	are needed to establish differences between
			hyperinflammation	patients with COVID-
			due to the storm of	19 who develop a
			pro-inflammatory	protective and balanced
			cytokines (TNF- α,	inflammatory reaction
			IL-1-β, IL-6, IL-12	from those who develop
			and chemokines ).	an exaggerated
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			). This hyperinflammation	inflammatory reaction, with a consequent

			characterizes the	pathological cytokine
			pathophysiology of severe COVID-19, which causes pathological changes mainly in the lungs, being a predictor of disease severity due to the strong association with multiple organ failure, which can	storm.Keywords:SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, cytokines.
WOLDAY; NDUNGU; GÓMEZ-PEREZ; WIT, 2021.	Chronic Immune Activation and CD4+ T Cell Lymphopenia in Healthy African Individuals: Perspectives for SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Efficacy	Descriptive Review.	lead to death.  It is characterized by increased levels of soluble immune activation markers, such as the cytokines interleukin (IL)-4, IL-10, TNF-α, and cell activation markers, including HLA-DR, CD-38, CCR5, along with with naïve reduction and increase in memory cells in the CD4+ and CD8+ subsets. Furthermore, it is accompanied by low CD4+T cell counts when compared to Europeans. There is also evidence that mononuclear cells from African babies secrete less innate cytokines than South and North Americans and Europeans in vitro.	Finally, we strongly recommend that highly prevalent infections such as those discussed in this manuscript be controlled in future vaccine trials, not just for SARS-CoV-2 infection, to assess the true magnitude of the impact of these conditions on vaccine efficacy, to guide the design of vaccines adapted for Africa, if necessary.
PEAR TREE; GIR; SANTOS, 2021.	People living with HIV and changes in daily routine resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic	Qualitative research.	Different changes were identified in the daily routine of people living with HIV resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, among them, the use of preventive measures, such as the use of masks and social isolation, in addition to changes in the work and leisure environment, in the family life, individual	Many changes and challenges of a physical, biological and psychosocial nature have been shown to be experienced by the participants in the face of the pandemic world scenario, resulting mainly from social isolation. To this end, coping strategies become fundamental in the daily lives of people living with HIV in order to ensure continuity and uninterrupted treatment, and the prevention of a pandemic, thus

			emotional aspects	mitigating the
			and treatment.	repercussions of
				COVID-19 on the
				health of these
				individuals. who belong to the risk group.
SANTOS et al.,	Relationship between	Literature revision.	Although	However, the risk
2022.	SARS-CoV-2		hospitalization and,	factors and
	infection and the		especially, help in	pathophysiological
	occurrence of thromboembolic		the ICU, by itself, are factors of	mechanisms associated with thromboembolism
	events		greater risk for	have not yet been fully
			thromboembolism,	elucidated, gaps that
			it is observed that	should be thoroughly researched by future
			the processes of thrombogenesis are	researched by future scientists to assist in the
			patients tend to be	understanding of studies
			more prevalent in	such as better diagnostic
			the face of Invasion by SARS-CoV-2,	, therapeutic and prophylactic
			especially the	complications.
			storm storm.	_
			cytokines due to the	
			virus, with emphasis on the	
			release of	
			interleukin 6, tumor	
			necrosis factor and chemokines, which	
			provide the	
			capacity for the	
			coagulation	
			cascade of the hypercoagulable	
			state.	
SILVA et al.,	COVID-19: Health	Reflective descriptive	Even so, when we	However, it is expected
2021.	professionals in in- hospital patient care	review.	need to carry out these transfers, the	that such evidence will collaborate to support
	COVID-19: Health		help of qualified	strategies aimed at
	professionals in in-		professionals is	training these
	hospital patient care		necessary to	professionals, both during
			preserve the patient's life, and	the training period and during the services that
			allows	were assigned to them, in
			professionals to	order to improve the
			have greater control of risk	quality of care provided to the patient in the intra-
			situations, in	hospital situation.
			addition to	hospital.
			conducting	
			treatments and detecting future	
			unwanted	
01 1112	THE STATE OF THE S		complications.	**
OLIVE TREE;	The panacea of anticoagulants in	Literature review.	However, despite the growing	Knowledge about the response of this disease
MARQUES, 2020.	anticoagulants in COVID-19 infection		the growing network of research	to any type of treatment
			that has been	suggested is extremely
			created around	volatile with daily
			COVID-19, it is noted that most of	renewal of concepts, requiring a lot of criteria
			these studies have	and parsimony in the
			weak evidence, as	conduct, always trying
			what we have so far	to keep in mind a

			are, in general, guidelines from societies of specialties., expert opinions, in vitro studies, case reports and some case series (with a small sample size).	to cause harm to the patient
STURZA; TONEL, 2020.	The challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic: from measures to protect the right to health to impacts on mental health	Literature review.	It was found that isolation, the constant fear of illness and the threat of unemployment cause immeasurable damage to the mental health of the population.	The main contribution of this research lies in the possibility of reflecting and asking about the various issues relevant to the unfortunate spread of this new coronavirus, which has been leading a rigorous health and humanitarian crisis, with damage to the right to health, individual and collective freedoms. and people's livelihoods.

Source: Prepared by the author, 2022.

According to Alves et al. (2021), the pandemic brought with it a care network to work directly with infected people during social isolation. It is essential to work on the principle of integrality and interdisciplinarity with the expectation of satisfactory results for this population at risk. It is of paramount importance to have CD4 cell counts below the reference number (< 500 cells/mm³ of blood), that is, immunosuppressed clients, who have some advantages of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

For Barbosa (2022), the COVID-19 pandemic had a large participation of empirical actions and interventions and based on findings, often exclusively derived from in vitro tests, which showed the intense release of pro-inflammatory cytokines, responsible for the worsening of the clinical picture of patients with COVID-19.

Dias (2022), comments that the treatment was often out of control, and the search to treat with effective drugs was usually dubious, even so, the treatment is arduous and needs to follow the treatment protocols. The medical procedure of clinical decision, which is usually guided by a rational approach, based on evidence, becoming clearly emotional.

Falavigna et al. (2022), describes that the pharmacological treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and the HIV virus is highly complex because we are treating different pathologies that have in common attacking the CD4 of these immunosuppressed patients. The target population has indications for hospitalization in cases of diagnosis or suspicion of COVID-19. We know that the demand during the crisis was intense and led to the death of these patients who lived with the HIV virus.

Ferreira & Santos (2022); KREWER et al. (2022), reports that COVID-19 can have a cure through biosecurity measures, including all the necessary guidelines to combat the opportunistic

pathologies of HIV/AIDS. This can also lead to another situation that is not visible, which is depression, due to the few acceptable cultural and social advances to overcome social exclusion and the historical stigma of the disease.

Gonçalves et al. (2021), comments that the appreciation of the release of neutrophils from people living with HIV/AIDS, exists between, one or another, variation with symptoms and characteristics that do not fit among the diagnoses of pneumonia directly, however, it is a characterized form, diagnosis that is usually infected by Mycoplasma Pneumoniae, from which place, according to the symptoms, it presents pain in the lung base, reported by the client as back pain, and absence of secretion.

Rodrigues & Galli (2022) report that the respiratory system is the main organ affected, according to studies published in scientific databases, which identified the relationship of some pathologies such as influenza associated with clinical manifestations and in different body systems. human associated with SARS-CoV-2, such as: cardiovascular, digestive and central nervous system.

Napoleon et al. (2021), says that the invasion of pathogens, known as: viruses, bacteria and fungi, is fought by two major defenses of the immune system: an initial defense, conducted by innate immunity; and a later one, mediated by acquired immunity. However, this initial innate defense can prevent the entry of invaders into the body, using physical barriers such as: skin and mucous membranes of the respiratory and gastrointestinal tract and antimicrobial peptides, secreted by epithelial cells and by some leukocytes.

COVID-19 patients living with the HIV virus also have lymphopenia. Low baseline CD4 cell counts of generally African individuals will increase the acuity risk of COVID-19. Immune triggering in Africans is associated with environmental factors such as parasitic infections, other infections and vaccines. It is unclear whether the immunogenicity and efficacy of anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccines will also be reduced by similar cell defense mechanisms (WOLDAY; NDUNGU; GÓMEZ-PÉREZ; WIT, 2021).

According to Pereira, Gir & Santos (2021), the control measures together with social distancing were the biggest move in history to mitigate the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Santos et al. (2022), comments that HIV needs regular monitoring and biannual monitoring of CD4 rates and viral load, seeking the necessary medications to continue treatment, in addition to dealing with opportunistic HIV diseases.

According to Silva et al. (2021), hospitalizations during the pandemic period brought with them the imminent fear of death, and even with all the correct care and treatments to maintain the survival of these clients living with HIV, it was not possible to keep everyone alive, as the disease is overwhelming, and brought with it terror in the country's intra-hospital units.

Sobreira & Marques (2020), corroborate Sturza & Tonel (2020), when they say that social isolation was necessary for the prevention and control of infection by the COVID-19 virus; still, they

wonder if "it was good for whom" many people believe that the quarantine constitutes an unwarranted decrease in personal freedom, while on the other hand the uncertainties of the labor market, where many have lost their jobs and their housing. The economic and financial impact in general was considered a major contributor to the increase in psychological disorders, evidencing the negative effects on the mental health of these individuals, even post-quarantine.

## **4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Serum positive patients who have been contaminated by COVID-19 will suffer not only from physiological damage, but also from their emotional structure that has been totally shaken, such as seclusion, lack of care and loneliness. This scenario of a new infection challenged our seropositive patient to be more aware of their own health. However, these individuals had their lives interrupted due to numerous cases of SARSCoV-2, where their families did not have the right to watch over that body.

COVID-19, without a shadow of a doubt, has brought insecurity and uncertainty for tomorrow, it has certainly been causing devastation in the world and we have to deal with the situations imposed by our rulers, where it suffocates, social inequalities and the overlap of the economy and of profit on human life. However, it is not known whether HIV/AIDS infection associated with low CD4 levels when not properly controlled can lead to a greater risk for SARSCoV-2, as it is a potent virus, for this reason, it is necessary to have all hygiene care and have the habit of wearing masks even if released by the health authorities of our country.

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