

## THE RELATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS TO THE PROBLEM OF HIV/AIDS

*Magufwa A.F., student of the 6<sup>th</sup> course*

*Scientific supervisor – assistant A. I. Piddubna*

*Sumy State University, department of infectious diseases and epidemiology*

**Actuality.** HIV infection/AIDS - is a global problem of mankind. Therefore it's correct to speak about the importance of HIV infection in the medical practice of any speciality.

**The Aim** of the study: to assess the awareness of foreign medical students about HIV/AIDS, as well as an analysis of the degree of tolerance for future health care workers towards HIV-infected individuals based on the subjective views of respondents.

**Materials and Methods.** For the execution of the tasks a questionnaire of 29 questions was developed, each of which contained from 3 to 6 choices. Question dealt with the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV infection. The study was conducted anonymously and in confidence among foreign students of 5 and 6 courses of Sumy State University, medical institute.

**Results.** 34 foreign students with the age range from 21 years to 31 years were questioned among which, were 24 males (70,6 %) and 10 females (29,4 %) , the mean age was 26 years. The students were from Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Zambia, Syria, Egypt, Cameroon, Malaysia, Sudan and Rwanda. More than 50 % of the questionnaire gave the correct answers to general questions about the sources and routes of HIV infection, pathogenesis, and methods of diagnosis and treatment of disease. Incorrect responses regards to the question of contact with potentially hazardous biological materials were recorded in 7 students (20,5 %). Note that 3 (8,8 %) of respondents indicated the need for isolation of HIV-positive individuals in the society, which suggests the presence of stigma towards people living with HIV among future health professionals.

**Conclusions.** Foreign medical students are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS recorded a high level of knowledge of the etiology, pathogenesis, mechanisms and modes of transmission. Nevertheless, it is necessary to strengthen the control of students' knowledge concerning the actions of medical personnel in emergency situations with infected biological material, to focus more on issues of bioethics, including the inadmissibility of stigma and discrimination against HIV-infected individuals in the society.