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Understanding mechanisms to promote successful aging in persons living with HIV

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Abstract

The mortality rate associated with HIV infection plummeted after the introduction of effective antiretroviral therapy pioneered two decades ago. As a result, HIV-infected people now have a life expectancy comparable to that of HIV-uninfected individuals. Despite this, increased rates of osteoporosis, chronic liver disease, and in particular cardiovascular disease have been reported among people living with HIV infection. With the aging HIV-infected population, the burden of these co-morbid illnesses may continue to accrue over time. In this paper, we will present an overview of the aging HIV-infected population, its epidemiology and the many challenges faced. Strategies to define and measure successful aging will also be reviewed. Finally, we will outline opportunities that may help mitigate the challenges identified and ensure successful aging among people living with HIV infection.

Keywords: HIV; epidemiology; aging; successful aging

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