

Factors associated with poor sleep quality among HIV-positive individuals in Mexico City

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ABSTRACT

Introduction. Sleep quality is commonly impaired in medical disorders, and the HIV-positive population is particularly vulnerable to complaint from sleep disturbances. **Objective.** To determine the prevalence of poor sleep quality and the factors associated with it, in a population of HIV positive Mexican out patients. **Method.** A cross sectional study was done. A sample of 367 HIV-positive subjects over 18 years completed a set of self-administered questionnaires: the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), the Epworth Sleepiness Scale, the Athens Insomnia Scale, and the Beck Depression Inventory. Sociodemographic and clinical data were recorded. **Results.** Of the respondents, 82.8% ($n = 304$) were male. The mean age of the patients was 36.6 ($SD = 9.4$) years, and the mean educational level was 12.2 ($SD = 3.8$) years. According to the PSQI, 58.6% ($n = 215$) had poor sleep quality. Poor sleep quality was more common in those who had lived longer with HIV, had started their antiretroviral treatment later, had suboptimal antiretroviral adherence, had a CD4 cell count < 200 cells/ μ L, reported illicit drug use, had concomitant medications, or had insomnia, sleepiness, or depressive symptoms. In multivariate analyses, poor sleep quality was associated with depressive symptoms, illicit drug use, a CD4 count < 200 cells/ μ L, and time elapsed since HIV diagnosis. **Discussion and conclusion.** Poor sleep quality is common in HIV patients. Early identification of patients with poor sleep quality through vigilance for factors associated with it might facilitate prompt treatment.

Keywords: HIV infection, depression, sleep quality.

RESUMEN

Introducción. La población seropositiva es particularmente vulnerable a presentar alteraciones del sueño. **Objetivo.** Determinar la prevalencia y los factores asociados a la mala calidad del sueño en un grupo de pacientes con VIH en la Ciudad de México. **Método.** Estudio transversal. Se incluyó una muestra de 367 personas con VIH mayores de 18 años. Todos los pacientes contestaron el Índice de Calidad del Sueño de Pittsburgh (PSQI), la Escala de Somnolencia de Epworth, la Escala de Atenas de insomnio y el Inventario de Depresión de Beck. Se recabaron datos sociodemográficos y clínicos. **Resultados.** El 82.8% ($n = 304$) de los encuestados eran varones. La edad media fue de 36.6 ($DE = 9.4$), con escolaridad promedio de 12.2 ($DE = 3.8$) años. El 58.6% ($n = 215$) tuvieron una mala calidad del sueño. La mala calidad del sueño fue más común en aquellos con mayor tiempo de haber sido diagnosticados, con mayor retardo en el inicio y adherencia subóptima al tratamiento antirretroviral, con recuento de linfocitos T-CD4⁺ < 200 células/ μ L, con uso ilícito de drogas y uso de medicamentos concomitantes, o con presencia de insomnio, somnolencia y síntomas depresivos. En el análisis multivariado, la mala calidad del sueño se asoció con síntomas depresivos, uso de drogas ilícitas, un recuento de linfocitos T-CD4⁺ < 200 células/ μ L y el tiempo desde el diagnóstico de VIH. **Discusión y conclusión.** La mala calidad del sueño es común en pacientes con VIH. Su identificación temprana a través de la vigilancia de los factores asociados con ella puede facilitar el tratamiento oportuno.

Palabras clave: VIH, depresión, calidad del sueño.

INTRODUCTION

Sleep quality is an indicator of wellbeing. Poor sleep quality is associated with increased co-morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs and decreased quality of life ("Garbarino, Lanteri, Durando, Magnavita, & Sannita, 2016"), both in clinical populations (Koren, Dumin, & Gozal, 2016) and in the general population (Hayashino et al., 2010). Sleep quality is commonly impaired in medical disorders (Berry & Harding, 2004). In particular, sleep disturbances have been recognized in people with HIV since the early days of the epidemic (Norman et al., 1992). The prevalence of poor sleep quality in the HIV-positive population ranges from 40% to 100% (Wu, Wu, Lu, Guo, & Li, 2015) as compared to 13% to 30% in the general population (Knutson, 2015).

Patients with HIV/AIDS are particularly vulnerable to poor sleep quality because of multiple biological factors. These factors include central nervous system (CNS) HIV-involvement, opportunistic infections of the CNS, substance use, antiretroviral (ARV) side effects, medical comorbidity, and immune dysfunction (Irwin, Olmstead, & Carroll, 2016). The prevalence of poor sleep quality does not change in the context of highly effective ARV therapy and controlled viral replication, indicating that it may be attributable to factors other than HIV disease (Allavena et al., 2016). Other factors contributing to poor sleep quality in people with HIV include psychosocial distress, gender, employment status, negative lifestyle habits, and psychiatric comorbidity (Garbarino et al., 2016).

Poor sleep quality is associated with several adverse consequences in the HIV-infected population. These consequences include impact on ART adherence, decreased engagement in HIV-care, diminished health-related quality of life, excessive daytime sleepiness, and cognitive impairment (Tedaldi, Minniti, & Fischer, 2015; Tello-Velasquez et al., 2015; Vosvick et al., 2004).

In Mexico, the prevalence of poor sleep quality in the general population ranges from 21% (Jordan, Perez-Escamilla, Desai, & Shamah-Levy, 2016) to 26% (Cabada-Ramos, Cruz-Corona, Pineda-Murguía, Sánchez-Camacho, & Solano-Heredia, 2015). To our knowledge, to date no estimation of sleep quality has been carried out in HIV-positive Mexican patients. The aim of this study therefore was to determine the prevalence of poor sleep quality in HIV-positive Mexican out-patients, and to identify associated factors.

METHODS

A cross-sectional study was conducted at the Centro de Investigación en Enfermedades Infecciosas (CIENI) of the Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias (INER) in Mexico City. A random sample was obtained from June 2012 to June 2013 from HIV-positive patients, aged 18-59

years, attending the Laboratory of Virological Diagnosis (LVD) – CIENI. The LVD is a national reference laboratory to determine HIV viral load (VL) and CD4 T cell counts (VL was performed by automated real-time PCR in the m2000 equipment -Abbott, Abbott Park, IL-; CD4 T cell counts were carried out by flow cytometry with the Trucount reaction time in a FACS Calibur device -BD Biosciences, San José, CA-). A random list of 10 numbers was generated each day using Excel (Microsoft Office 2016 for Mac) from numbers 1 to 200. Patients who had the appointment number corresponding to the random selection made were invited to participate.

Patients answered a set of self-administered instruments on sleep quality, sleepiness, insomnia, and depressive symptoms. Sociodemographic data, substance use, data on concomitant medications, current antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, and self-reported ARV adherence were obtained by direct interview (adherence was categorized as optimal when patients had > 95% ARV intake within the last week). HIV viral load and CD4 T cell counts were obtained from LVD results. To diminish the possibility that some respondents might not have fully understood the questions used, an interviewer was present at all evaluations, provided detailed instructions, and remained close by to answer any questions from the respondents.

A total sample size of 369 participants was calculated using the formula to estimate a proportion (Daniel, 1999) based on an expected prevalence of 40% of poor sleep quality for HIV-positive persons, with a level of confidence of 95% and a precision of .5%. The protocol was approved by the INER's Ethical and Scientific Board.

Measures

The instruments used were the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), the Epworth Sleepiness Scale, the Athens Insomnia Scale, and the Beck Depression Inventory. Sleep quality was assessed by using the PSQI in a validated Mexican version (reliability coefficient = .78) (Jiménez-Genchi, Monteverde-Maldonado, Nenclares-Portocarrero, & Esquivel-Adame, 2008). The PSQI is the most widely validated instrument used in research and clinical settings to assess global sleep quality in HIV-infected individuals (Wu et al., 2015). The PSQI is a 19-item self-rated scale which assesses sleep quality and disturbances over a 1 - month time interval, assessing seven sleep components: sleep quality, sleep latency, sleep duration, habitual sleep efficiency, sleep disturbances, use of hypnotics, and daytime dysfunction during the last month. The global PSQI score is then calculated by totaling the seven component scores, providing an overall score ranging from 0 to 21. A score > 5 points denoted poor sleep quality (Buysse, Reynolds, Monk, Berman, & Kupfer, 1989). Clinical studies have found the PSQI to be reliable and valid to assess

sleep quality, but have found weak or inconsistent associations between the PSQI and objective measures, such as polysomnography or actigraphy (Buysse et al., 2008; Krystal & Edinger, 2008).

We used the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), in a validated Mexican version (Sandoval-Rincón, Alcalá-Lozano, Herrera-Jiménez, & Jiménez-Genchi, 2013), identify daytime sleepiness (reliability = .89). ESS scores range from 0 to 24. Scores higher than nine points defined daytime sleepiness. A score between 10-12 points identifies mild and > 12 points indicates excessive daytime sleepiness (Johns, 1991).

The Athens Insomnia Scale (AIS) is an 8-item questionnaire that identifies non-organic insomnia according to the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD - 10) criteria (Soldatos, Dikeos, & Paparrigopoulos, 2000). Scores of six points or higher indicate insomnia (Portacarrero & Genchi, 2005; Soldatos, Dikeos, & Paparrigopoulos, 2003).

The Mexican validated version (Jurado et al., 1998) of the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) (reliability = .90) was used to identify depressive symptoms. The BDI has 21 items, each answer is scored on a scale value of 0 to 3. A score over nine points identifies mild, 19-29 points moderate, and ≥ 30 points severe depressive symptoms. The Mexican version of the BDI has been shown to be of good diagnostic utility, both in the general population and in individuals with HIV infection (Rodríguez et al., 2012).

Statistical Analysis

Demographic and clinical characteristics were described using frequencies and percentages for categorical variables as well as means and standard deviations for the continuous variables. The chi square test, U- Mann-Whitney test, and the Student's t test were used for comparison between groups as appropriate. The significance level for all the analyses was established at $p < .05$ (2-tailed). Multivariate logistic regression was used for the calculation of the likelihood that poor sleep quality would occur. To perform this analysis variables included were classified as auxiliary binary variables (represented by 0 as the no-risk value and 1 as the risk value) according to a dummy codification. The Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) was used to determine which of the candidate models best approximated the data (Hastie, Tibshirani, & Friedman, 2009). The model with the lower AIC value is considered to be superior, although there are no defined thresholds associated with this measure. We analyzed our data using the statistical software package SPSS version 20.0 for Windows PC.

Ethical considerations

All invited participants filled out the self-administered instruments while waiting for their medical appointment, at

CIENT's waiting room between 7:00 - 13:00 hours and provided written consent. Incomplete questionnaires were not included in the analysis.

RESULTS

From June 2012 to June 2013, 374 HIV-positive outpatients were enrolled in the study. Seven were eliminated because they provided incomplete questionnaires; thus, 367 were included in the final analysis (Table 1). Mean age was 36.6 years, and mean educational level was 12.1 years (equivalent to completion of high school). Most subjects were male, single, and employed.

The participants had been living knowing they were HIV infected for an average of 5.3 years and had started ARV treatment with an average delay time of 12.9 months after diagnosis. Most subjects ($n = 315$, 85.8%) were under ARV

Table 1
Sample characteristics

	Total sample N = 367
Age (years) [mean, (SD)]	36.6 (9.8)
Sex (male) [n (%)]	304.0 (83.8)
Single marital status [n (%)]	269.0 (73.3)
Educational level (years) [mean, (SD)]	12.1 (3.6)
Currently employed [n (%)]	247.0 (67.3)
BMI [mean, (SD)]	23.7 (3.9)
Illicit drug use ¹ [n (%)]	76.0 (20.7)
Alcohol use [n (%)]	205.0 (55.9)
Caffeine use [n (%)]	219.0 (59.7)
Nicotine use [n (%)]	89.0 (24.3)
Years since HIV diagnosis [mean, (SD)]	5.3 (5.4)
Duration of ART (years) [mean, (SD)]	4.6 (4.9)
Delay in starting ART (months) [median, (IQR)]	2.0 (.8)
Current ART [n (%)]	315.0 (85.8)
EFV-based ART [n (%)]	195.0 (53.1)
Last-week ART adherence rate < 95% [n (%)]	66.0 (21)
Additional medications	153.0 (41.9)
CD4 cell count (n = 362)	
< 200 cells/ μ L	74.0 (20.4)
≥ 200 cells/ μ L	287.0 (78.1)
Plasma HIV-1 RNA [n (%)]	
< 40 copies/ml	239.0 (65.1)
> 40 copies/ml	128.0 (34.9)
AIS [n (%)]	94.0 (25.6)
BDI [n (%)]	
10-18 points	76.0 (20.7)
19-29 points	51.0 (13.9)
≥ 30 points	27.0 (7.4)
ESS [n (%)]	
10-12 points	26.0 (7.1)
> 12 points	25.0 (6.8)

Note: SD, Standard deviation; BMI, Body mass index; IQR, Interquartile range; ART, Antiretroviral treatment; EFV, Efavirenz; AIS, Athens Insomnia Scale; BDI, Beck's Depression Inventory; ESS, Epworth Sleepiness Scale.
¹Cannabis, cocaine, stimulants.

Table 2
Comparison of HIV-positive outpatients having good and poor sleep quality

	Sleep Quality		Odds ratio (95% CI)	P value ^a
	Good	Poor		
Overall [n (%)]	152.0 (41.4)	215.0 (58.6)		
Age (years) [mean, (SD)]	35.5 (9.2)	37.3 (9.5)	-	.075
Sex (% male)	173.0 (80.5)	131.0 (86.2)	-	.152
Single	113.0 (74.3)	156.0 (72.6)	-	.704
Educational level (years) [mean, (SD)]	12.1 (3.6)	12.3 (3.9)	-	.576
Currently employed	110.0 (72.4)	137.0 (63.7)	-	.082
BMI [mean, (SD)]	23.6 (3.7)	23.7 (4.1)	-	.794
Illicit drug use ^a [n (%)]	22.0 (14.5)	54.0 (25.1)	1.9 (1.2 – 3.4)	.013*
Alcohol use [n (%)]	81.0 (53.3)	124.0 (57.7)	-	.405
HIV diagnosis > 4 years ^b [n (%)]	50.0 (32.9)	102.0 (47.4)	1.8 (1.2 – 2.8)	.005*
Duration of ART (years) [mean, (SD)]	4.2 (4.6)	5.0 (5.0)	-	.151
Delay in starting ART > 2 months ^a [median, (IQR)]	1.0 (0, 5)	3.0 (0, 12)	1.8 (1.2 – 2.7)	.003*
Current ART [n (%)]	129.0 (85.4)	186.0 (86.5)	-	.769
EFV based ART [n (%)]	86.0 (56.6)	109.0 (50.7)	-	.266
ART adherence rate < 95% ^c [n (%)]	20.0 (15.5)	46.0 (24.7)	1.78 (1.0 – 3.2)	.048*
Use of additional medications	48.0 (31.8)	105.0 (49.1)	2.1 (1.3 – 3.1)	.001*
CD4 cell count < 200 cells/ μ L	23.0 (15.1)	52.0 (24.8)	1.8 (1.0 – 3.2)	.026*
Detectable viral load ^d [n (%)]	106.0 (69.7)	133.0 (61.9)	-	.122
Insomnia ^e [n (%)]	1.0 (.7)	93.0 (43.3)	115.0 (15 – 837)	<.001*
Depressive symptoms ^f [n (%)]	24.0 (15.8)	130.0 (60.5)	8.2 (4.8 – 13.6)	<.001*
Sleepiness ^g [n (%)]	14.0 (9.2)	37.0 (17.2)	2.0 (1.1 – 3.9)	.029*

Note: SD, Standard deviation; BMI, Body mass index; IQR, Interquartile range; ART, Antiretroviral treatment; EFV, Efavirenz; ^aCannabis, cocaine, amphetamines. ^bMean and median cut-off points were used as appropriate to categorize variables. ^cARV adherence within last 7 days. ^dPlasma HIV-1 RNA > 40 copies/mL. ^eAIS score \geq 6 points. ^fBDI score > 9 points. ^gESS > 9 points. ^{*}P-values were calculated using the χ^2 test, U- Mann-Whitney and t-test were used as appropriate.

treatment at the time of evaluation, of which 59% ($n = 186$) were on their first ARV regimen, 27.3% ($n = 86$) on their second, 6.7% ($n = 21$) on their third, and 7% ($n = 22$) on their fourth or more ARV regimen. Last-week adherence was reported as optimal (> 95% adherence) for 79% ($n = 249$), half had current EFV-based ARV regimens (with any drug combination used as backbone). Median CD4 T cell count was 413 cells/ μ L (interquartile range (IQR) 234–565 cells/ μ L), and 239 subjects (65.1%) had an undetectable viral load (plasma HIV-1 RNA > 40 copies/mL). Forty-two percent were taking additional medications (median = 1 additional medication, range = 1 – 9).

According to BDI score, 42% of patients had depressive symptoms; intensity was mild in 20.7%, moderate in 13.9%, and severe in 7.4%. A quarter of the subjects had insomnia (based on AIS) and 13.9% had sleepiness, which was marginal for 7.1% and excessive for 6.8% of the sample.

Poor sleep quality was reported by 58.6% of our sample (Table 2). In an univariate analysis, poor sleep quality was significantly more common in those who had lived longer with HIV, had longer delays in starting their antiretroviral treatment, had suboptimal ARV adherence, had lower CD4 cell counts (< 200 cells/ μ L), were taking additional medications, had illicit substance use, or had insomnia, sleepiness, and depressive symptoms, as measured by the

clinimetric evaluation. There were no differences between groups in nicotine and caffeine intake (nicotine, $\chi^2 = 2.600$, $p = .107$; caffeine, $\chi^2 = .019$, $p = .891$) and current number of ARV regimen ($\chi^2 = 6.376$, $p = .095$). The number of additional medications did not correlate with PSQI scores ($r = .018$, $p = .831$). Poor sleepers tended to have higher scores on all PSQI components (Table 3).

Two multivariate logistic regression models were created to determine the predictors of poor sleep quality among the study population (Table 4). The first model included all significant nine variables: illicit drug use, time since HIV

Table 3
Pittsburgh sleep quality index subcomponents scores in HIV-positive outpatients with good and poor sleep quality

	Sleepers	
	Good ($n = 152$)	Poor ($n = 215$)
PSQI 1 (subjective sleep quality)	.6 (.5)	1.5 (.7)
PSQI 2 (sleep latency)	.6 (.7)	1.9 (1.0)
PSQI 3 (sleep duration)	.4 (.6)	1.5 (.9)
PSQI 4 (sleep efficiency)	.2 (.5)	1.6 (1.2)
PSQI 5 (sleep disturbances)	1.0 (.5)	1.6 (.6)
PSQI 6 (use of sleep medication)	.1 (.4)	.7 (1.1)
PSQI 7 (daytime dysfunction)	.5 (.6)	1.6 (.9)
Total PSQI	3.6 (1.4)	10.1 (3.6)

Note: PSQI, Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index. Values are means (with standard deviations in parenthesis).

Table 4
Multivariate logistic regression models for poor sleep quality among HIV-positive outpatients (n = 367)

	First model*		Second model**	
	Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)	P value	Adjusted odds ratio (95% CI)	P value
HIV diagnosis > 4 years ^a	1.57 (.86 – 2.89)	.140	1.79 (1.05 – 3.08)	.032*
Delay in starting ART > 2 months ^a	1.28 (.71 – 2.31)	.413	1.56 (.91 – 2.65)	.099
ART adherence rate ^b < 95% ^b	1.70 (.83 – 3.48)	.147	1.37 (.70 – 2.69)	.355
CD4 cell count < 200 cells/ μ L	1.94 (.88 – 4.33)	.102	2.19 (1.10 – 4.33)	.025*
Use of additional medications	1.17 (.63 – 2.19)	.609	-	
Illicit drug use ^c	2.05 (1.01 – 4.02)	.048*	1.98 (1.00 – 3.91)	.050*
Insomnia ^d	1.18 + E9	.996	-	
Depressive symptoms ^e	321 (1.74 – 5.96)	< .001*	6.11 (3.5 – 10.62)	< .001*
Sleepiness ^f	1.34 (.52 – 3.41)	.543	-	

Note: ^aMean and median cut-off points were used to categorize variables. ^bARV adherence within last 7 days. ^cCannabis, cocaine, amphetamines. ^dAIS score \geq 6 points. ^eBDI > 9 points. ^fESS > 9 points. EFV, Efavirenz; ART, Antiretroviral treatment. ^{*} $\chi^2 = 141.140$, Nagelkerke = .492; ^{**} $\chi^2 = 76.454$, Nagelkerke = .294

diagnosis, delay in ART initiation after diagnosis, ART adherence, additional medications, lymphocyte CD4 cell count < 200 cell/ μ L, insomnia, sleepiness, and depressive symptoms. Depression and illicit drug use were significant predictors in the model.

The second model did not include the variables of insomnia, additional medications, and sleepiness because they were the least related variables in the first model (Table 4). Both models had an adequate prediction (Nagelkerke, R^2) and were valid (Hosmer). They identified more than 72% of the subjects with poor sleep quality. The adequacy of the second model was corroborated by a reduction in AIC values from 166.85 to 115.11. Having lived with HIV for longer time (> 4 years), having CD4 cell counts < 200 cell/ μ L, taking illicit drugs, and reporting depressive symptoms significantly predicted poor sleep quality.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

We found a high prevalence of poor sleep quality (58.9%) in HIV-infected individuals in agreement with results reported by Oshinaike et al. (2014) in Nigeria (59.3% prevalence). Poor sleep quality was linked to a higher score in most PSQI components, indicating the complexity of the problem. It was previously reported that the prevalence of poor sleep quality in the HIV-positive population ranged from 40% to 100% (Wu et al., 2015). These differences in prevalence may be due to various factors including differences in geographical area, characteristics of participants, and measurement instruments among studies. In Mexico, prevalence of poor sleep quality in the general population ranges from 21% (Jordan et al., 2016) to 26% (Cabada-Ramos et al., 2015). Our study demonstrates that poor sleep quality is more common in the Mexican HIV population than in the general Mexican population.

We found that poor sleep quality was predicted by depressive symptoms, illicit drug use, CD4 < 200 cell/ μ L, and longer time since HIV diagnosis. Depression has been consistently associated with poor sleep quality in different clinical populations (Hayashino et al., 2010), including HIV-positive patients (Wibbeler, Reichelt, Husstedt, & Evers, 2012). High prevalence of poor sleep quality in HIV-infected patients with depressive symptoms also has been found by others (Allavena et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2017; Oshinaike et al., 2014). In our study, the prevalence of depressive symptoms (42%) was lower than that of poor sleep quality (58.9%), suggesting the importance of distinguishing poor sleep quality caused by depression from that resulting from other causes.

In our study, length of time since HIV diagnosis was linked to poor sleep quality. This may be related to the immunoinflammatory system changes (Irwin et al., 2016) seen in HIV-infected patients. Alterations in the inflammatory response are associated with HIV infection, even in those with undetectable viral load. CNS inflammation occurs secondary to HIV-proteins (for example, Tat protein), even in the absence of active viral replication (Chauhan et al., 2003). Elevated circulating proinflammatory cytokines modify the activity of many regions of the brain to affect sleep, including the autonomic regulatory centers, hypothalamus, limbic system, mesolimbic cortex, and brainstem nuclei (Lorton et al., 2006). This relationship of inflammation and sleep quality has been demonstrated also in healthy individuals (Foster et al., 2012).

We found an association of low CD4 cell counts (< 200 cells/ μ L) and poor sleep quality. Previous findings regarding the relationship between CD4 cell counts and sleep quality have been inconsistent (Wu et al., 2015), with some studies supporting the association (Dabaghzadeh, Khalili, Ghaeli, & Alimadadi, 2013; Oshinaike et al., 2014) and others not (Allavena et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2017). Patients with

lymphocyte CD4 cell counts < 200 cells/ μ L are by definition in the AIDS stage, which is associated with greater medical comorbidity. Sleep quality declines linearly as the number of comorbid medical conditions increases, independent of depressive status (Hayashino et al., 2010).

Illicit drug use is independently associated with sleep disturbances in persons without HIV infection (Mahoney et al., 2014). Most studies focusing on sleep quality in HIV-infected individuals do not include illicit drug use among the variables recorded. Our study is one of the few (Saber, Neillands, & Johnson, 2011) to associate illicit drug use with poor sleep quality. This may be a manifestation of the additive deleterious effects of HIV and illicit substance use on the CNS (Strazza, Pirrone, Wigdahl, & Nonnemacher, 2011).

Sleep quality includes quantitative and subjective well-being and daytime functioning. In our study, poor sleep quality was reported more frequently than insomnia and somnolence. This highlights the relevance that sleep quality should be routinely assessed in HIV-infected people regardless of insomnia and somnolence presence.

Our study had some limitations. We did not evaluate other sleep disturbances such as sleep-related apnea, hypersomnia, narcolepsy, or restless legs syndrome which can influence sleep quality and produce sleepiness. The participants' chronotype aspects, day-night activity levels, and presence of anxious symptoms were not included in the variables measured, but all of them might impact sleep quality. We did not specify the subtypes of additional medications and illicit drug use in our sample. Future sub-classification is needed to evaluate the influence of particular substances in sleep quality. Additionally, the PSQI is a broad subjective measure intended to assess several domains of sleep; thus, it might over or underestimate certain sleep parameters relative to objective measures of sleep, such as polysomnography or actigraphy (Krystal & Edinger, 2008). Other psychological aspects that might influence sleep quality were not measured, such as disease acceptance and treatment related distress. However, in our study most patients had undetectable viral load and had known to be living with HIV a mean of 5.3 years, diminishing the probability of these factors to be present in our sample considering as a proxy of disease acceptance and treatment related distress.

Strengths of the study include the completion of all questionnaires the day the patients underwent their laboratory test, thus permitting a robust link between CD4 cell counts and sleep quality, and the inclusion of illicit drug use in the variables recorded from participants. We diminished selection bias by using a random selection of participants. Even though we did not specifically address nightmares or vivid dreams, which are frequently reported by patients on EFV-based ARV regimens, the PSQI evaluates in one item the presence of bad dreams. This item was not statistically different between poor and good sleep quality groups, nor

between EFV-based and non EFV-based ARV regimens (Table 2).

Poor sleep quality is common in Mexican HIV patients. Multiple factors are associated with it, and early identification might facilitate prevention strategies and prompt treatment of poor sleep quality in HIV-positive patients. Our findings provide new insight into the association between poor sleep quality and a profile of risk factors in HIV-infected individuals. These risk factors may play a role in both pro-inflammatory and mental health aspects. Future research is required to determine the pathophysiology of poor sleep quality and other sleep disturbances in HIV-positive people to potentially allow more effective prevention and treatment of these problems.

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Conflict of interests

The authors declare they have no conflict of interests.

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