

Changes in Smoking Behavior after HIV Diagnosis and Current Smoking Status among HIV Patients in Guangxi, China

*Background:* Tobacco use among persons living with HIV (PLWHA) has become a significant public health issue. China is the largest tobacco producer and consumer in the world. Very few studies have investigated smoking behavior change among HIV positive population following their HIV diagnosis, and their current smoking status. Such data are urgently needed among PLWHA in China in order to provide more evidence supporting tobacco cessation and reduce

*Materials and Methods:* Cross-sectional interview data for a sample of 2973 individuals who were tested as HIV positive were analyzed. Changes in cigarette smoking after being tested HIV positive and current levels of cigarette smoking were analyzed. The association between demographic and other influential factors and cigarette smoking measures were also investigated.

*Findings:* Among the total sample 51.7% (77.9% male and 7.6% female) ever smoked cigarette in life. Among these smokers, 436 (28.9%) reduced smoking, 286 (19.0%) quit smoking after being tested HIV positive. Among the quitters, 210 (73.9%) remained abstinent for a median duration of two years by the time when the survey was conducted. There were also 124 (8.2%) who increased cigarette smoking. A number of factors were associated with reductions in smoking and quit.

*Conclusion:* Tobacco use was highly prevalent among PLWH in China. Findings of this study suggest that the time when a person is informed the positive HIV test results consists of a window of opportunities for tobacco cessation.