

DIRECT COST OF HIV/AIDS IN TURKEY

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OBJECTIVES

Advances in the diagnosis and treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the last decade have resulted in considerable improvements in the length and quality of life of HIV+ patients. The total HIV+ cases between 2003-2014 are reported as 6,889 in Turkey. Although the prevalence is low compared to other developing countries, the number of cases is rising in recent years (Figure 1). This study, aimed to explore the direct cost of HIV/AIDS from the Social Security Institution's (SSI) perspective in Turkey.

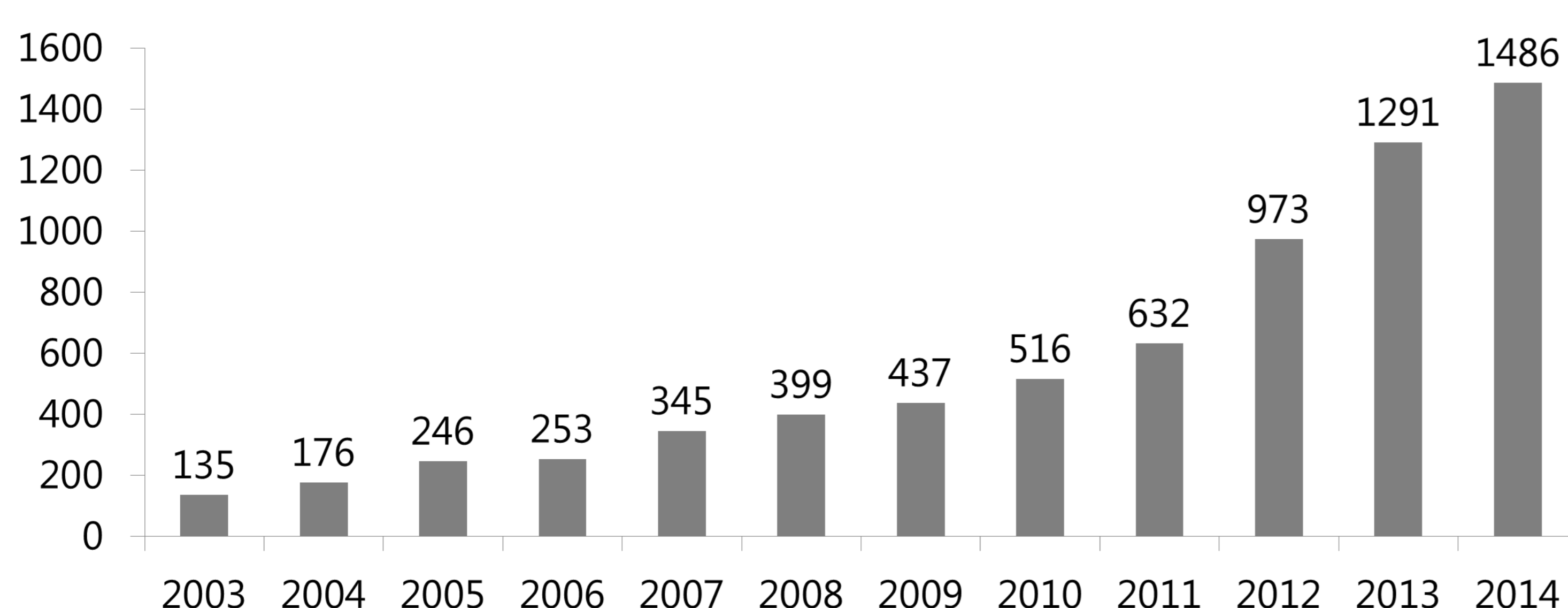
METHODS

This study used an expert panel approach to find out the direct costs of the disease. An expert panel, comprised of five clinical experts from five different HIV/AIDS centers was formed. A questionnaire exploring the types, amount and frequency of resources used in diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of the disease was designed and answered face-to-face by the panel experts. Tuberculosis, coronary heart disease, Kaposi sarcoma, brain lymphoma, cancer of cervix, renal failure, depression and dyslipidemia were selected as the major comorbidities of the disease and separate questionnaires to explore the resources used for treatment of these comorbidities were also designed. The cost of resources used in all stages of the disease was calculated according to the guidelines of the SSI.

RESULTS

The annual direct cost per patient without the cost of treating comorbidities was found to be 14,075.85 TRY. The total national annual HIV treatment cost, excluding the cost of comorbidities was found to be 96,968,531 TRY.

Figure 1: Number of HIV+ patients recorded between 2003 and 2014



Source: Turkish Public Health Institution (2015)

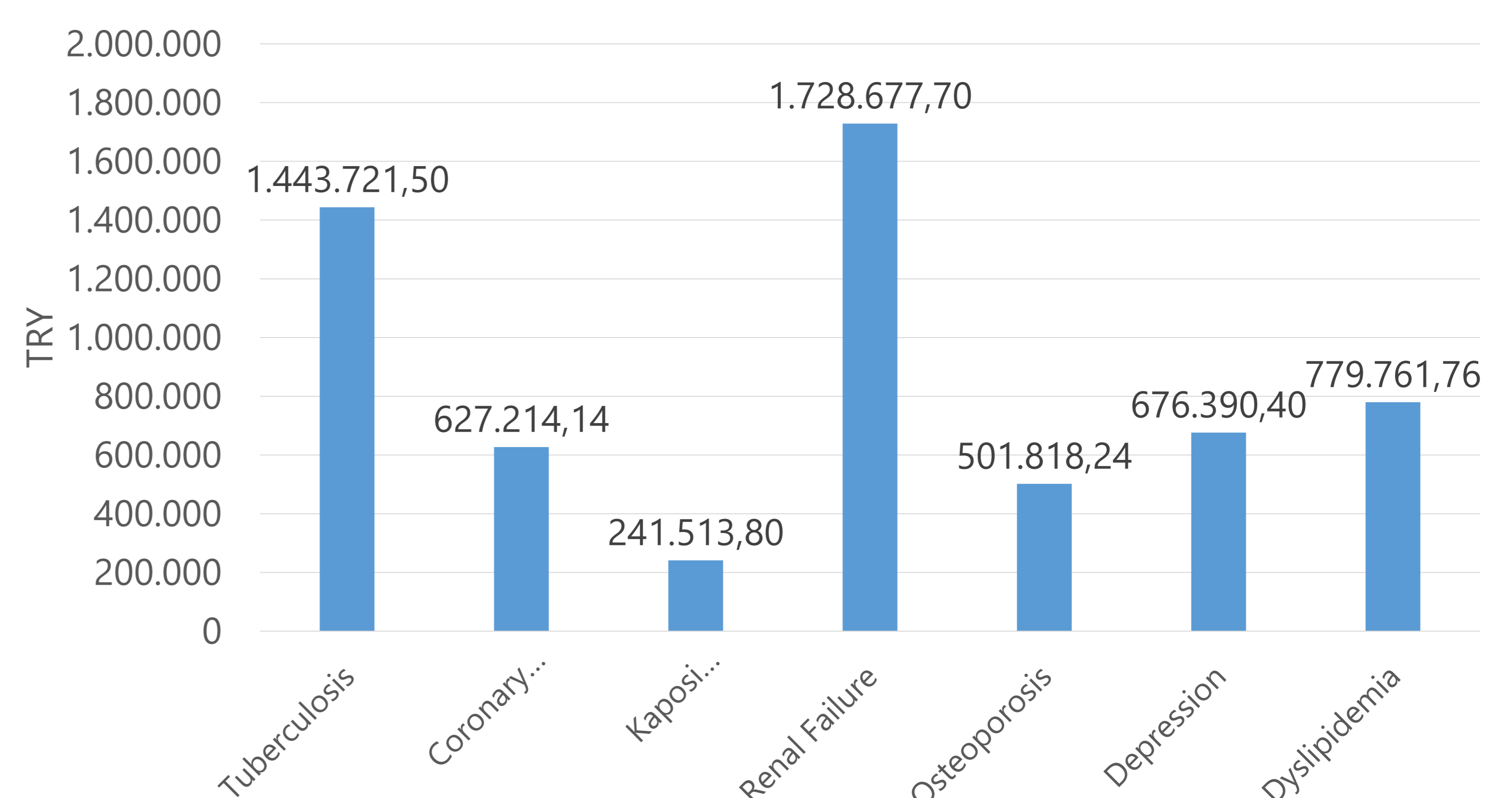
The annual direct costs per patient including the cost of treating comorbidities were found as 14,946.75 TRY (Table 1). Share of treatment cost of comorbidities in the total treatment cost per patient was found to be approximately 6%.

Table 1: Annual direct costs per HIV+ patient (including treatment cost of comorbidities)

Treatment	Cost Per Patient (TRY)
HIV	14.075,85
Tuberculosis	209,6
Coronary Artery Disease	91,1
Kaposi Sarcoma	35,1
Renal Failure	250,9
Osteoporosis	72,8
Depression	98,2
Dyslipidemia	113,2
Total annual HIV cost per patient	14.946,75

Considering both the prevalence and treatment cost of those comorbidities among HIV+ patients nationally, renal failure had the highest cost (1,728,677.7 TRY) followed by tuberculosis (1,443,721.5 TRY).

Figure 2: Total treatment cost of comorbidities



The total direct cost of the disease for all Turkish HIV+ patients to the SSI was found to be 102,968,161 TRY.

CONCLUSION

This study explored the direct costs of a disease with increasing prevalence in Turkey.

The results indicated that with the increasing trend in the prevalence of the disease, the Turkish policy-makers should be more concerned about preventive policies and diagnosis methods.

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