In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, many patients avoided moving from their homes, even to get essential drugs, such as antiretroviral therapy (ART). High adherence (more than 95%) is essential to acquire viral suppression and is associated with reduced mortality and morbidity. Furthermore, bad ART adherence is the first cause of therapeutic failure in HIV patients and HIV drug resistant strains.

## RESULTS

A total of 100 patients were analysed during the study period.

- 39% Female
- 61% Male
- Average age of 48.9±12.3 years

### 2019

- 67% ART Adherence

### 2020

- 43% ART Adherence

24% decrease in the adherence rate

\[ p-value=0.006 \]

### Graphic 1 – Characterization of non-adherent patients by gender, in the year of 2019 (n=33) and 2020 (n=57)

- Male: 36.4% in 2019, 43.8% in 2020
- Female: 63.6% in 2019, 56.1% in 2020

The main reasons for this reduction were:
- Reschedule doctor appointments;
- Reschedule mand blood tests;
- Mandatory confinement due to COVID-19;
- Fear of going to hospital facilities.

## CONCLUSION and RELEVANCE

The study results suggest that COVID-19 pandemic affected HIV patient’s adherence. So it’s important that hospital pharmacists promote therapeutic adherence and promote health education about COVID-19. The main limitation of the study was the reduced sample used. It is highly important to monitor patients with ART to ensure their adherence rate and to understand how and why COVID-19 pandemic affected their treatment. Further research is needed to know the real impact of COVID-19 pandemic in health of HIV patients.