

# Patient story:

- A 26 year old patient comes to your clinic. She started ART 2 years ago, but 4 months later returned to her village and was unable to continue treatment. She returned to your area a year ago, but was too scared to come to clinic because she thought the staff would be angry that she had stopped her treatment.
- She is complaining of a cough for 3 weeks, has lost weight and feels she sometimes has a fever.

## Questions:

- Could she have advanced HIV disease?
- Does this make any difference to your approach to her management?
- What is her risk of mortality?

# Advanced HIV (AHD): a clinical approach



# A common problem currently across the world

- AHD receiving increased attention
- Associated high mortality
- Needs correct approach
- A few simple tests

This session in two parts:

1. AHD overview
2. AHD patients in primary care

# Not one long lecture!





Will do it in a two parts



Several quizzes to keep you awake ...



... and super-  
interested



Have pen and paper ready



Commit thoughts to paper every time I ask you to:

- You test yourself
- You find out what you know and don't know

Q&A later

- Write all questions as we go along
- Post in chat if you like
- No replies during sessions – suggest avoiding conversations in chat

# Part 1: AHD overview

# Learning Objectives

On successful completion of this AHD overview, you will be able to:

- Correctly identify patients with advanced HIV disease
- Describe the mortality risks and list the common causes of mortality
- Identify danger signs and refer immediately
- Identify the patients without danger signs who need referral to hospital



# What is Advanced HIV?

## WHO, 2021, Chapter 5



GUIDELINES



CONSOLIDATED GUIDELINES ON  
**HIV PREVENTION, TESTING,  
TREATMENT, SERVICE  
DELIVERY AND MONITORING:**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A  
PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

JULY 2021

Poll number 1

# What is Advanced HIV?

WHO, 2021

Adults:

# What is Advanced HIV?

WHO, 2021

Adults:

- CD4 < 200

Or:

- New stage 3 or 4 disease

**Why is CD4 important?**

# What is Advanced HIV?

WHO, 2021

## Adults:

- CD4 < 200

Or:

- New stage 3 or 4 disease

### **Why is CD4 important?**

Study from Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zimbabwe showed that almost half of people with CD4 < 100 were classified as having WHO clinical stage 1 or 2

# What is Advanced HIV?

WHO, 2017

## Adults:

- CD4 < 200

Or:

- New stage 3 or 4 disease

### Why is CD4 important?

Study from Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zimbabwe showed that almost half of people with CD4 < 100 were classified as having WHO clinical stage 1 or 2

If you don't check it you will miss almost half of PLHIV with advanced HIV because they are not obviously ill...



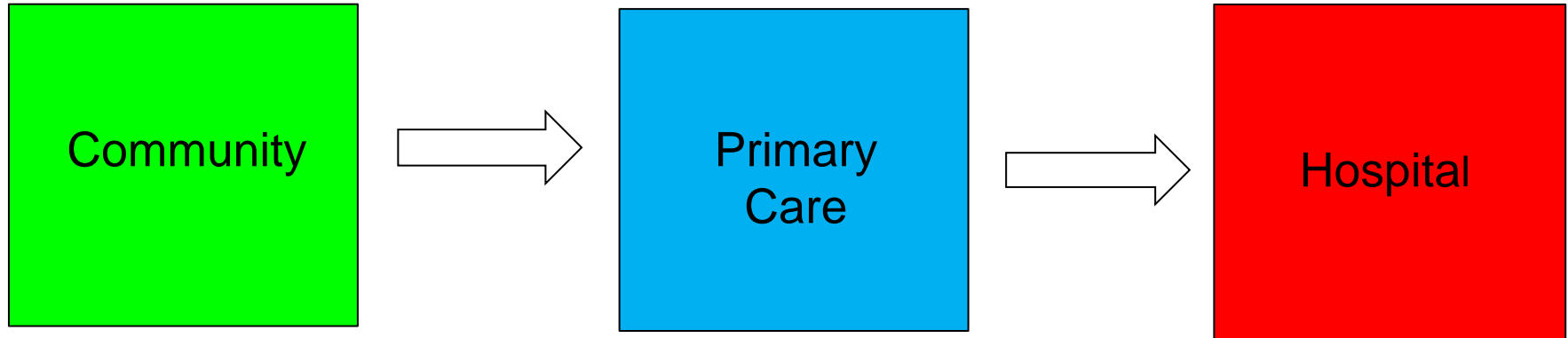
# What is Advanced HIV?

## WHO, 2021

### Children:

- All children under 5 years
- Why?
  - Increased risk of disease progression and mortality, regardless of clinical and immunological state
  - Different CD4 count varies with age, therefore definition based on CD4 count not helpful

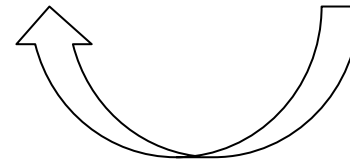
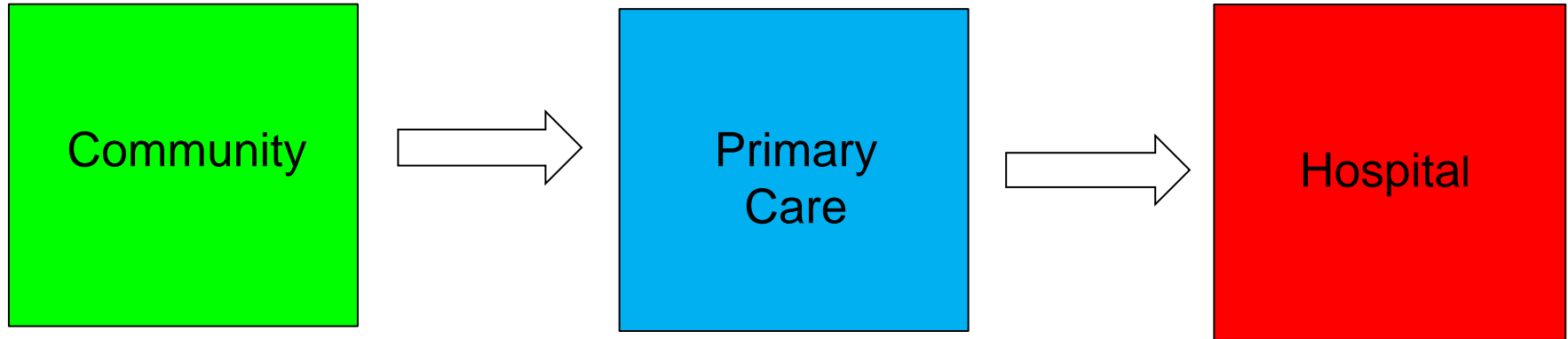
# Where are patients with advanced HIV?



- Majority of people living with HIV are well, and do not have advanced HIV
- Many patients with advanced HIV have CD4 < 200 and are not yet unwell
- Important to identify and treat advanced HIV early, to prevent opportunistic infections and death

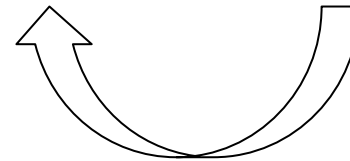
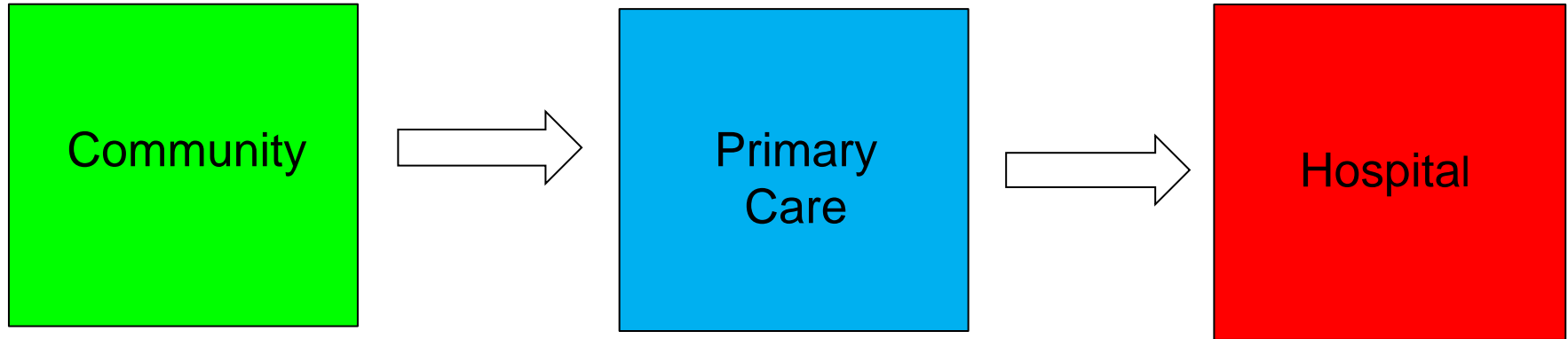
- Majority of hospitalized patients have advanced HIV
- High risk of death

# Where are patients with advanced HIV?



Post-hospitalization:  
Patients need higher level of  
care after discharge

# Patients with AHD are everywhere!



Post-hospitalization:  
Patients need higher level of  
care after discharge

# Advanced HIV: what are the risks?



# Inpatient mortality

Inpatient study, 2015-2017

- Over 2,000 patients
- Median CD4 count: 84





# Poll 2

# Inpatient mortality

Inpatient study, 2015-2017

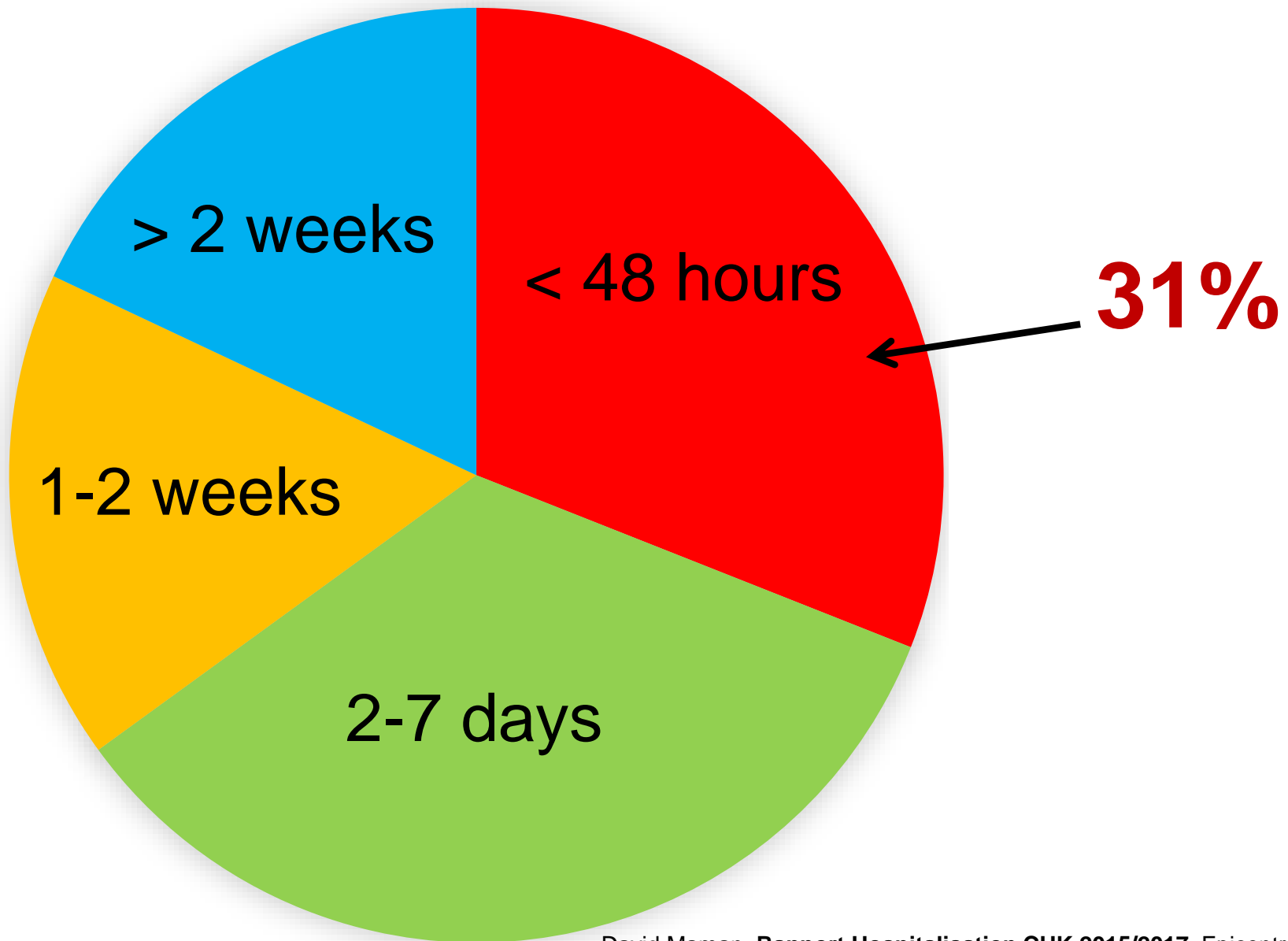
- Over 2,000 patients
- Median CD4 count: 84

1. 7%
2. 17%
3. 27%
4. **37%**

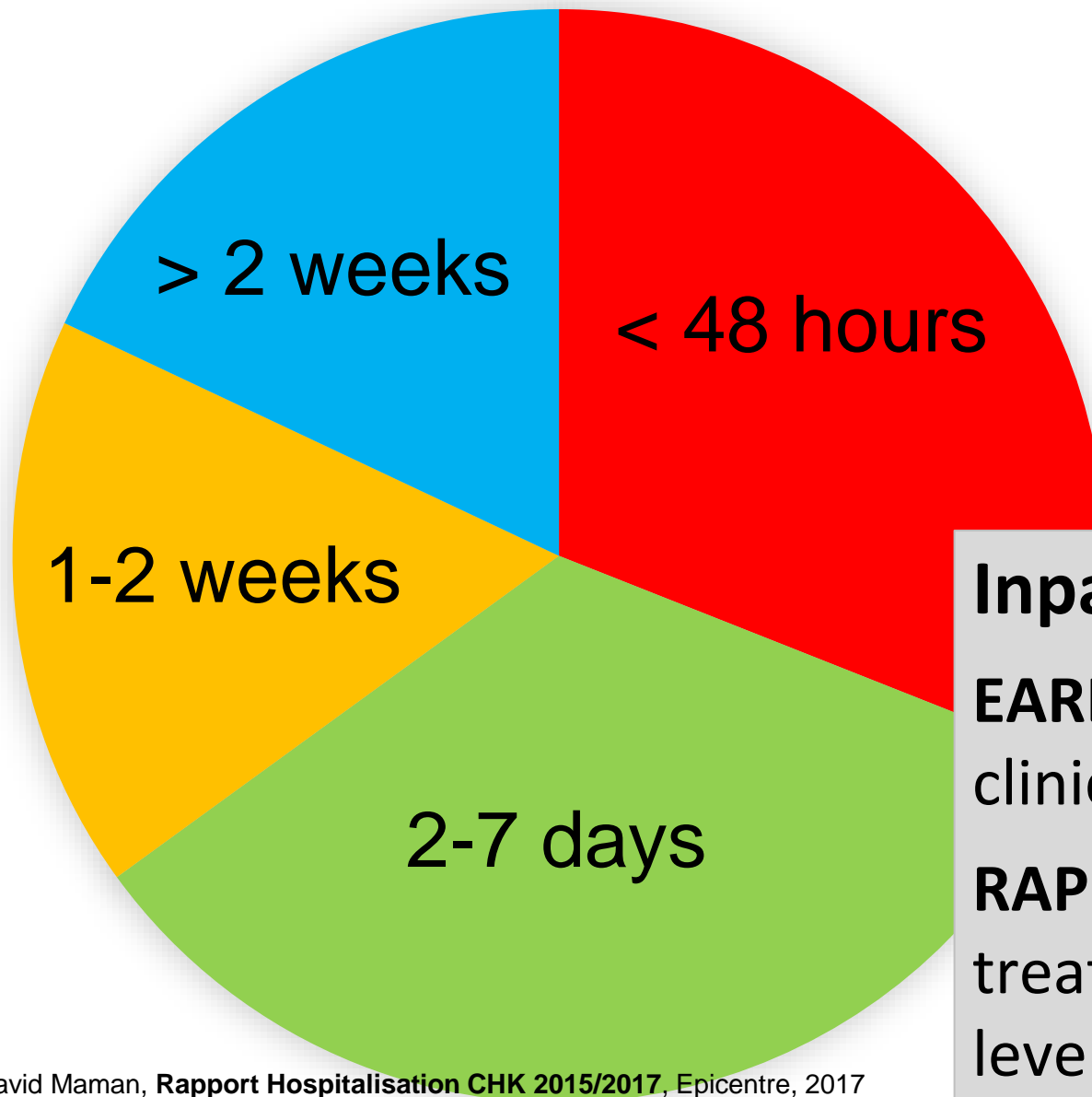


# Poll 3

## Time of death from admission



# Time of death from hospital admission



## Inpatients die early:

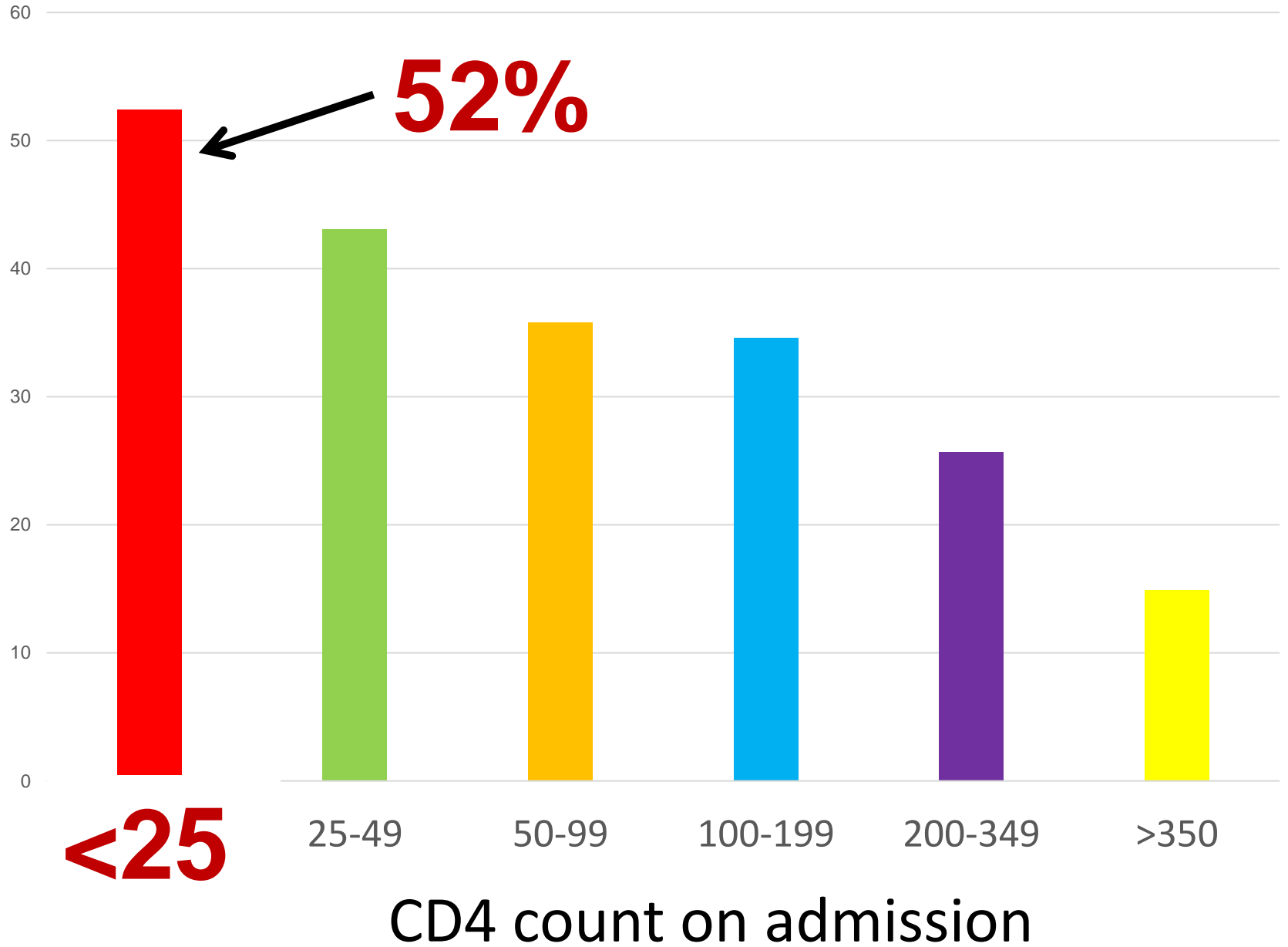
**EARLY** referral from clinics important

**RAPID** diagnosis and treatment at hospital level

# Poll 4

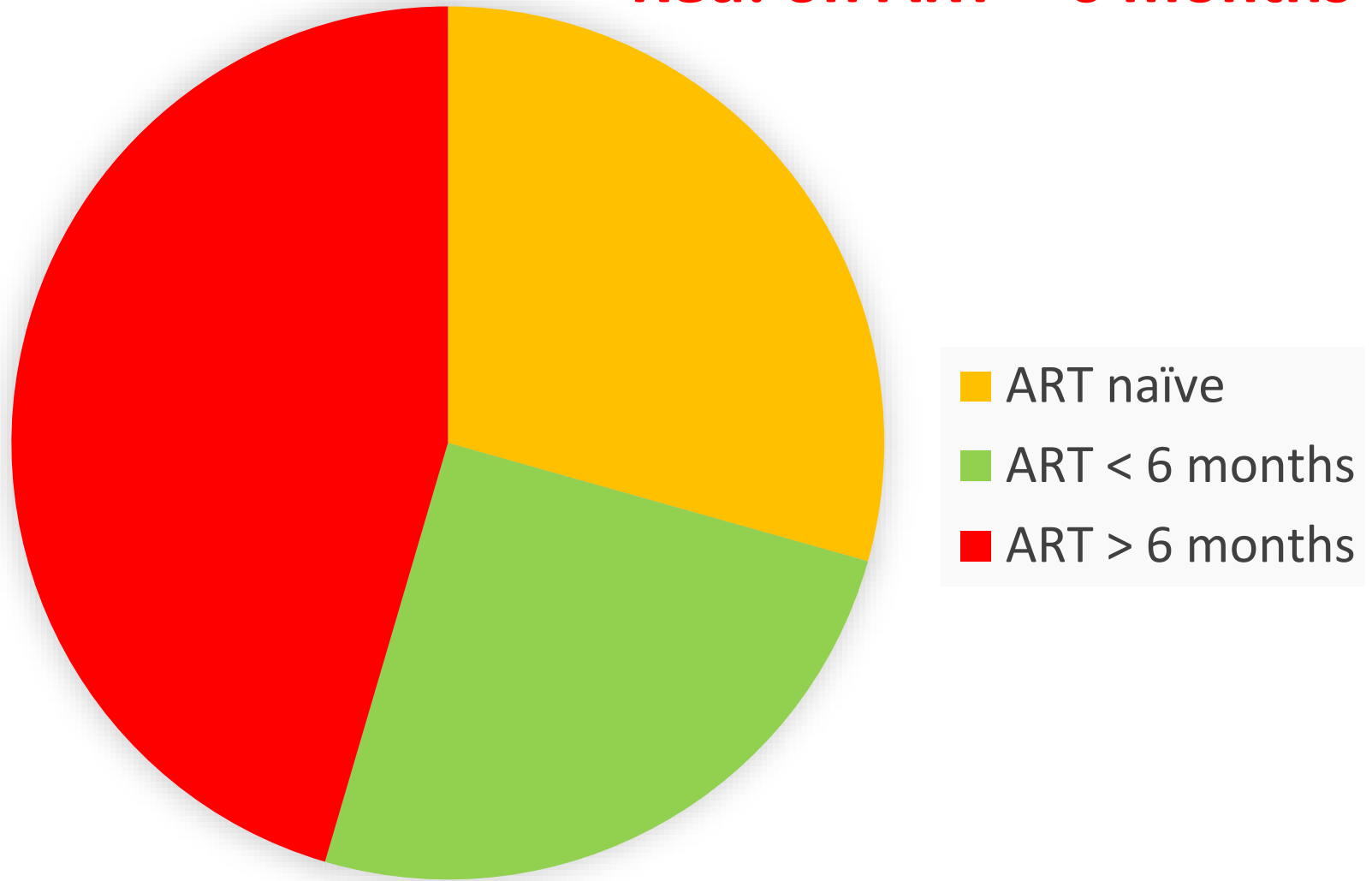


# % mortality by CD4 count



# Poll 5

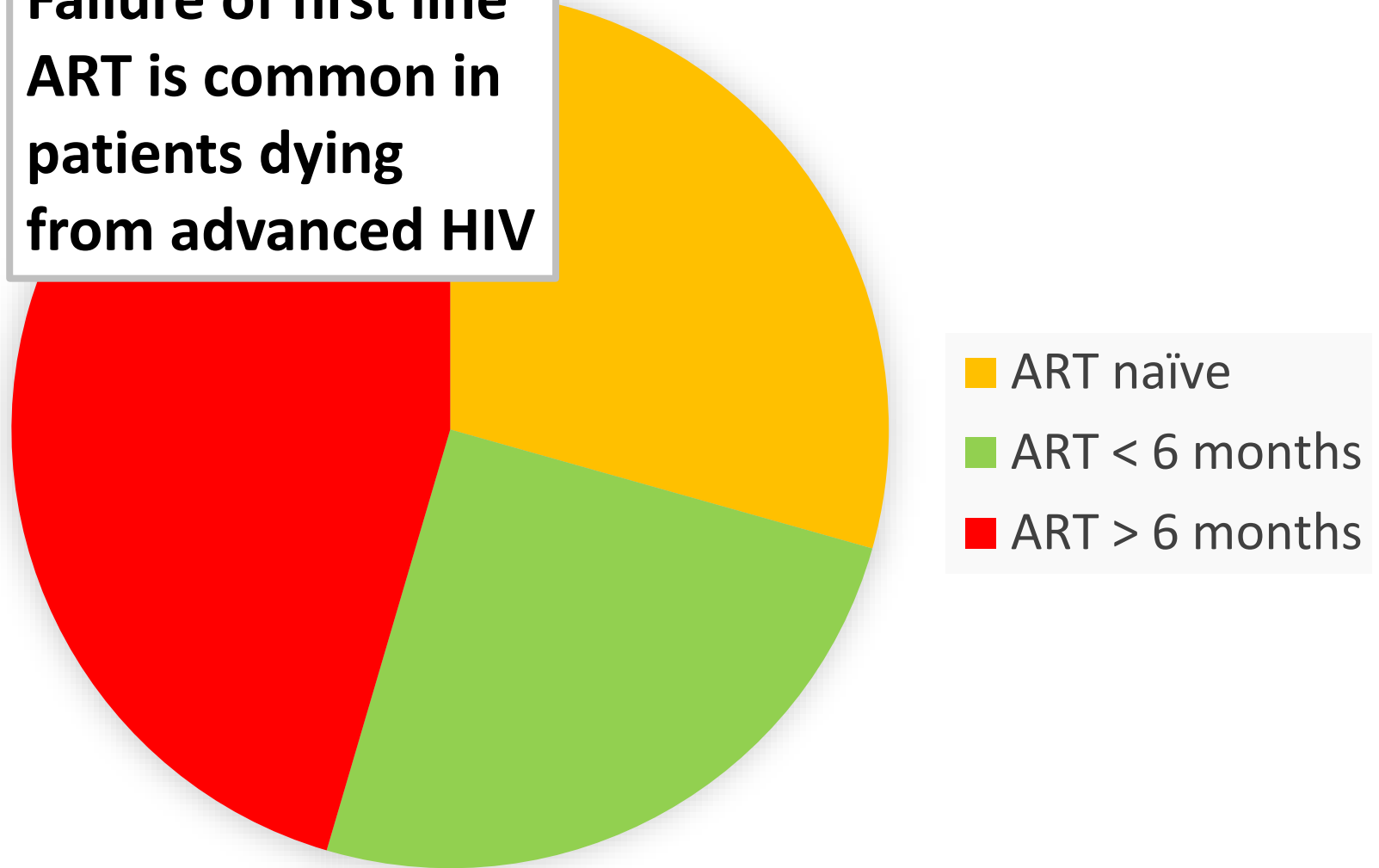
**Red: on ART > 6 months**



ART > 6 months: median 3.6 years (IQR 1.7 – 6.7)

**Failure of first line  
ART is common in  
patients dying  
from advanced HIV**

**Red: on ART > 6 months**



**ART > 6 months: median 3.6 years (IQR 1.7 – 6.7)**

## Homa Bay, Kenya study 2015: morbidity and mortality in IPD

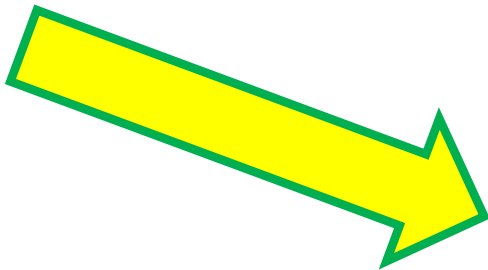
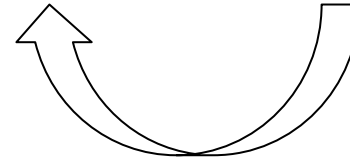
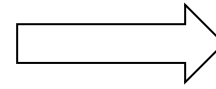
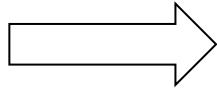
- Overall mortality: 17%
- Mortality if CD4 < 100: 23%
- Mortality if severe wasting: 30%

# Poll 6



# Mortality following discharge from hospital

- Follow-up for 9 months, median time of death 35 days
- **Overall mortality: 30%**



Post-hospitalization:  
Patients need higher level of  
care after discharge



# Causes of mortality

What are the common causes of mortality in hospitalised patients with advanced HIV?

- List at least 9!!!
- Write down what the most common cause is



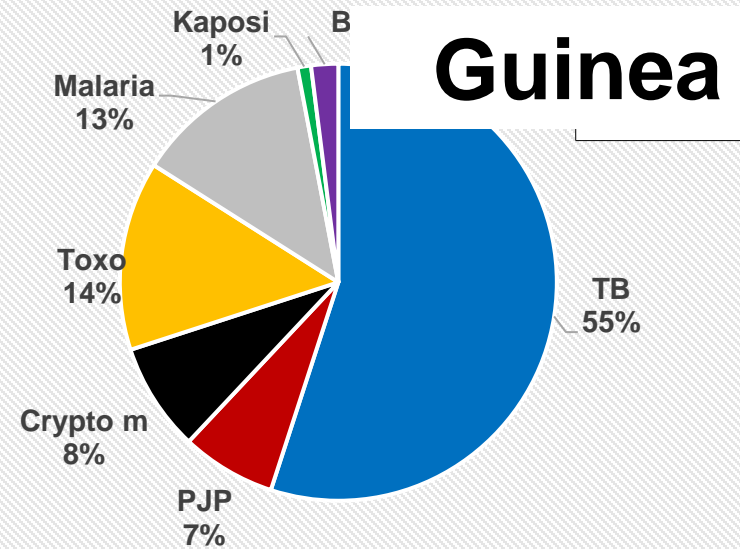
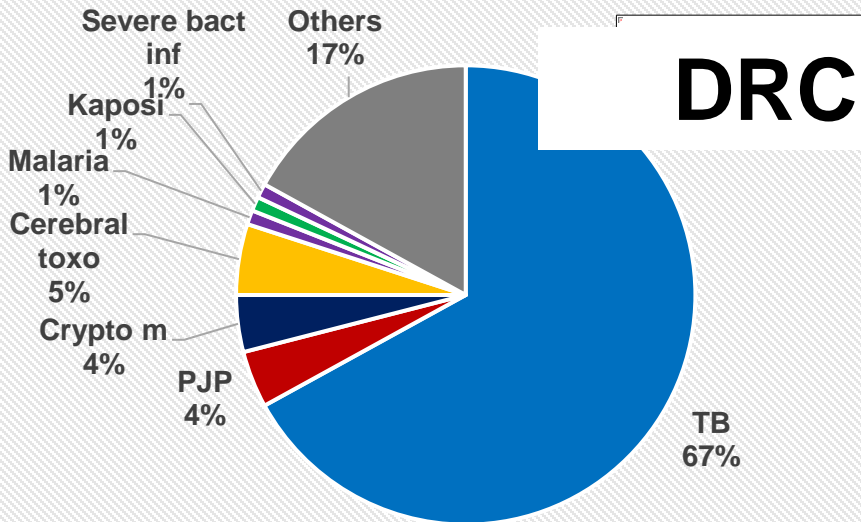
# ***TB is the most common cause***

All patients with advanced HIV are strong TB suspects, THEREFORE:

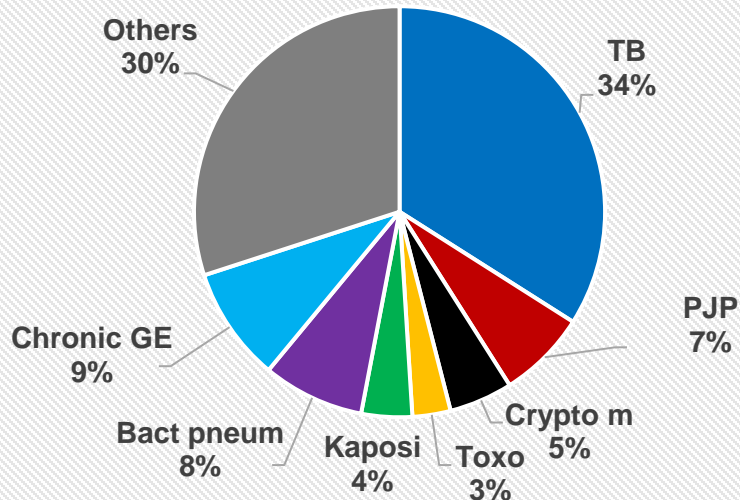
- Look for TB in all patients
- Start TB treatment rapidly
- Have a low threshold for empiric TB treatment

Naturally, follow national guidelines. But, remember, if limited access to tests, empiric TB treatment can save lives

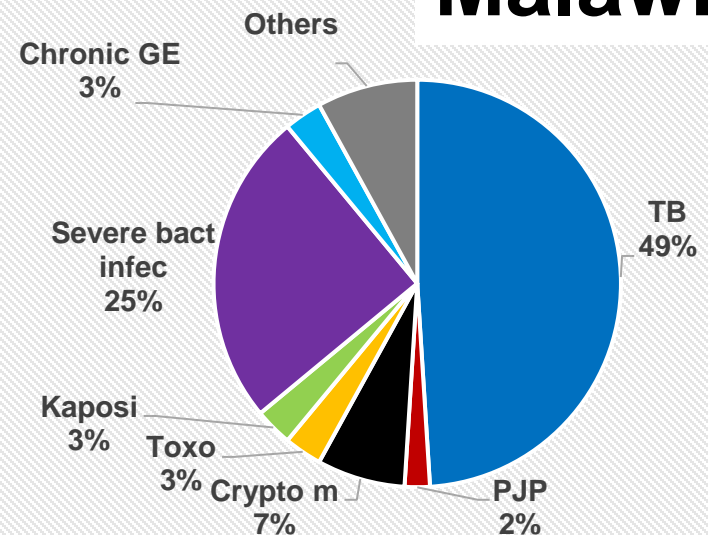
# FOUR DIFFERENT SITES AS EXAMPLES



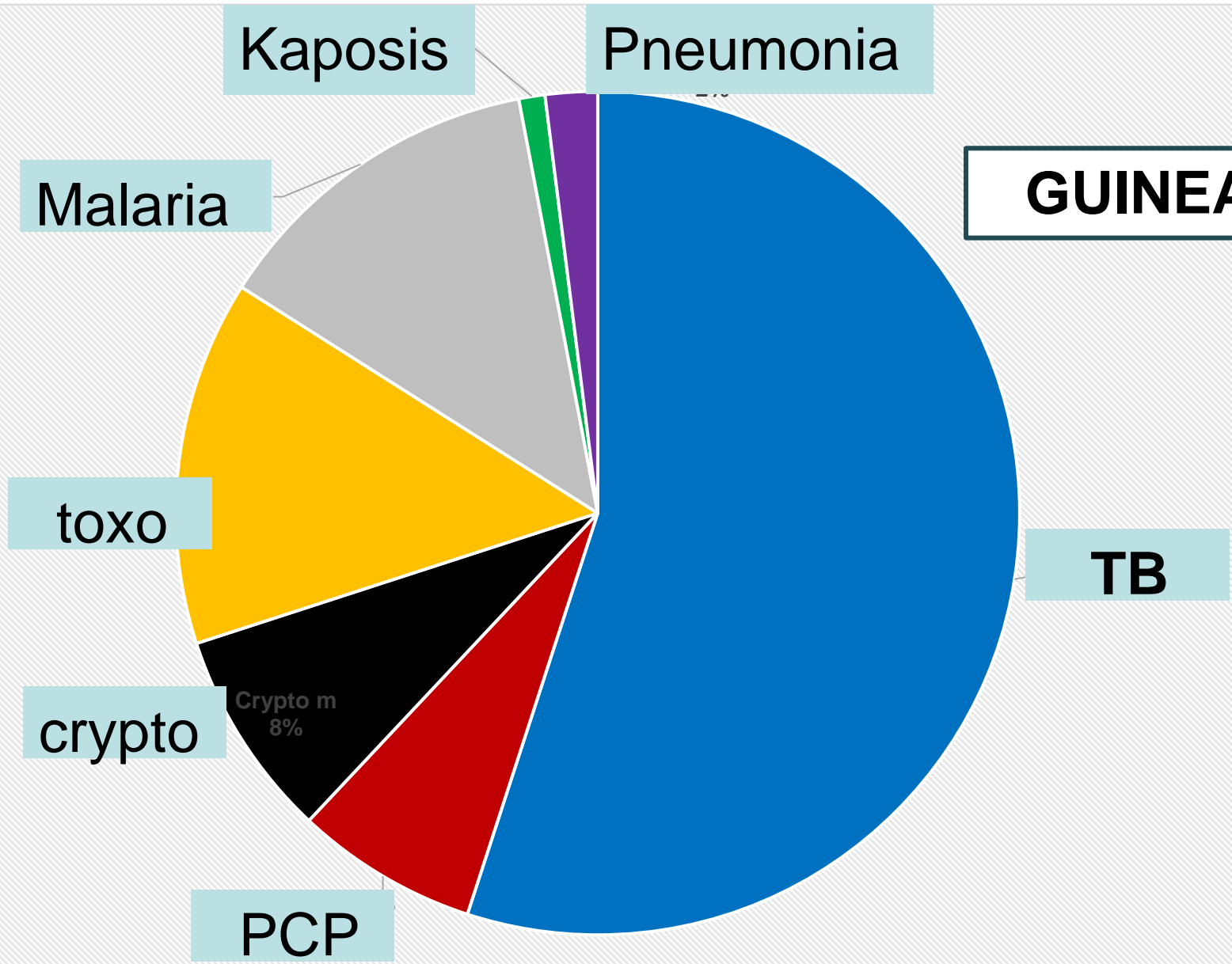
## Mozambique



## Malawi



**GUINEA**



TB is the most common cause of both admission and mortality

BUT ...

**Remember that there is usually more than one cause!!**

Even if you treat for TB – still look for other causes!



**REMEMBER**



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of an elephant's trunk, showing its characteristic wrinkled texture. The trunk curves from the top left towards the bottom right, framing the central text.

**T R U N K K S**

**T**B

**R**esp

**U**seless/**U**NUSED ART

**N**euro

**K**S and

**K**idneys

**S**epsis

**add malaria**

# T R U N K K S

**T**B

**R**esp: Big 3: TB, pneumonia, PCP

**U**seless/**U**NUSED ART

**N**euro: Big 3: TBM, CCM, toxo

**K**S and

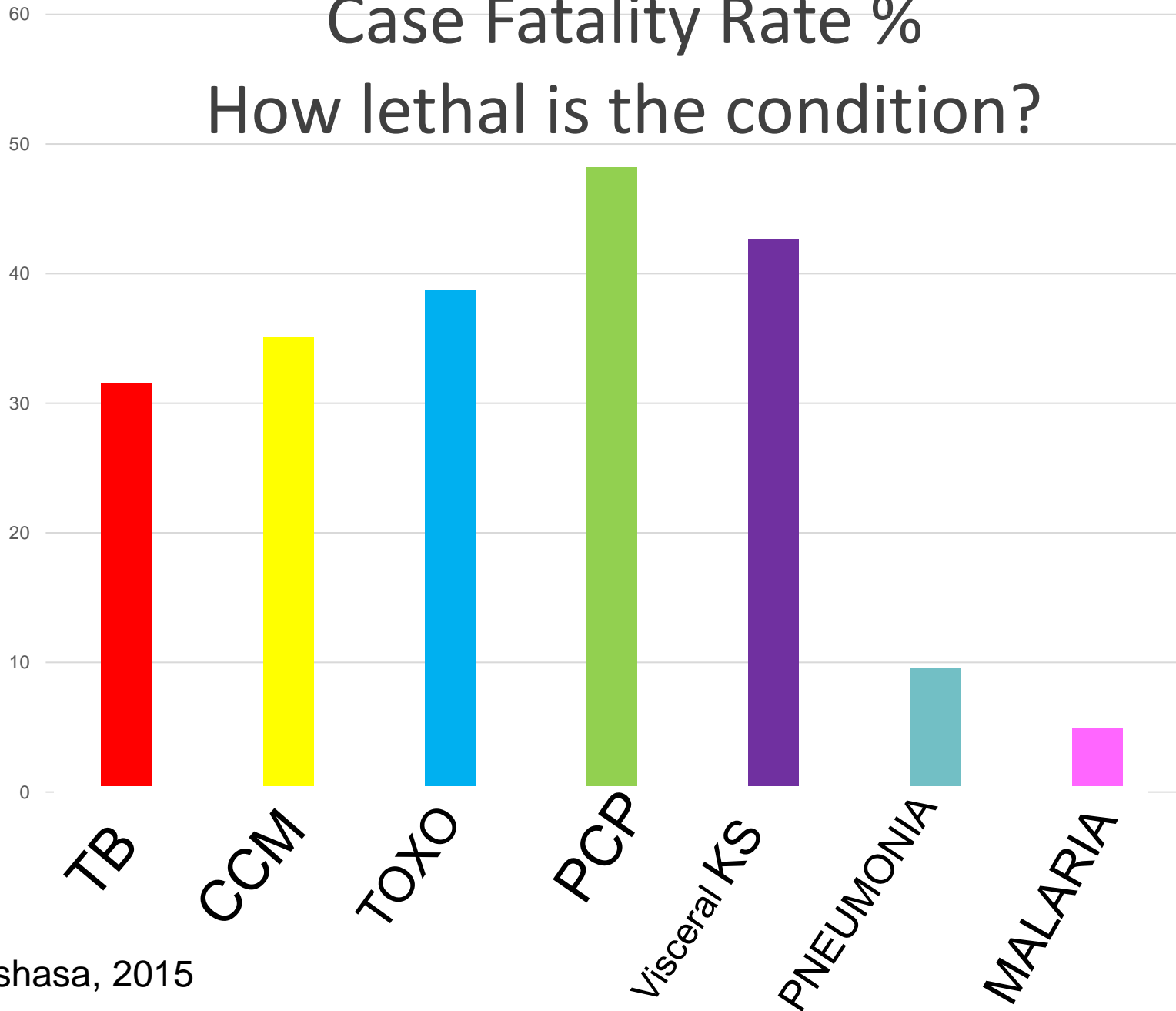
**K**idneys

**S**epsis

**add malaria**

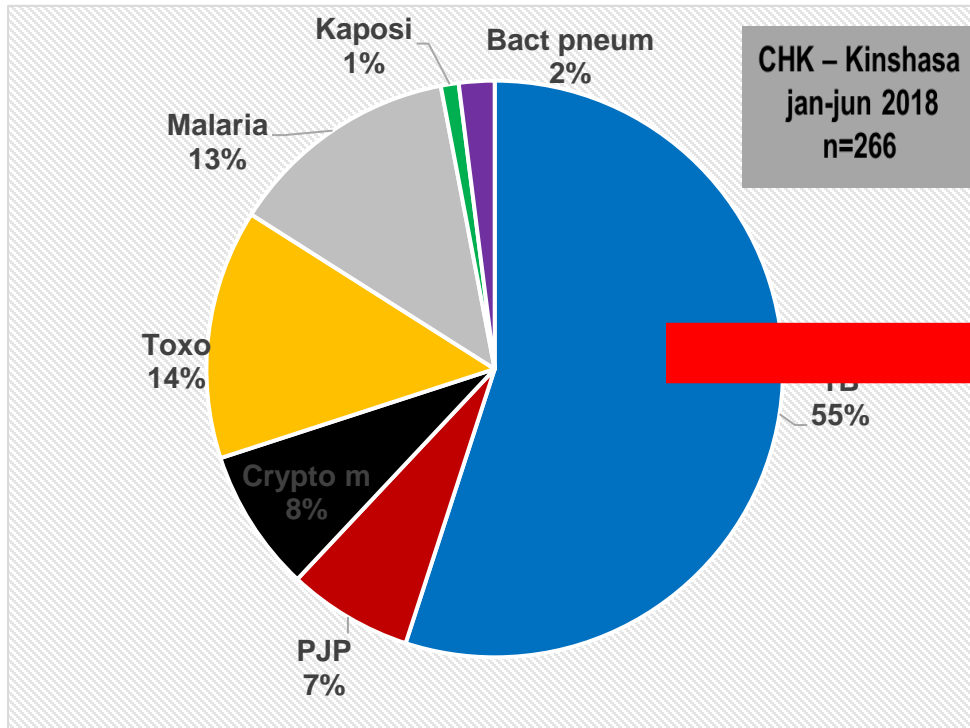
# Case Fatality Rate %

## How lethal is the condition?



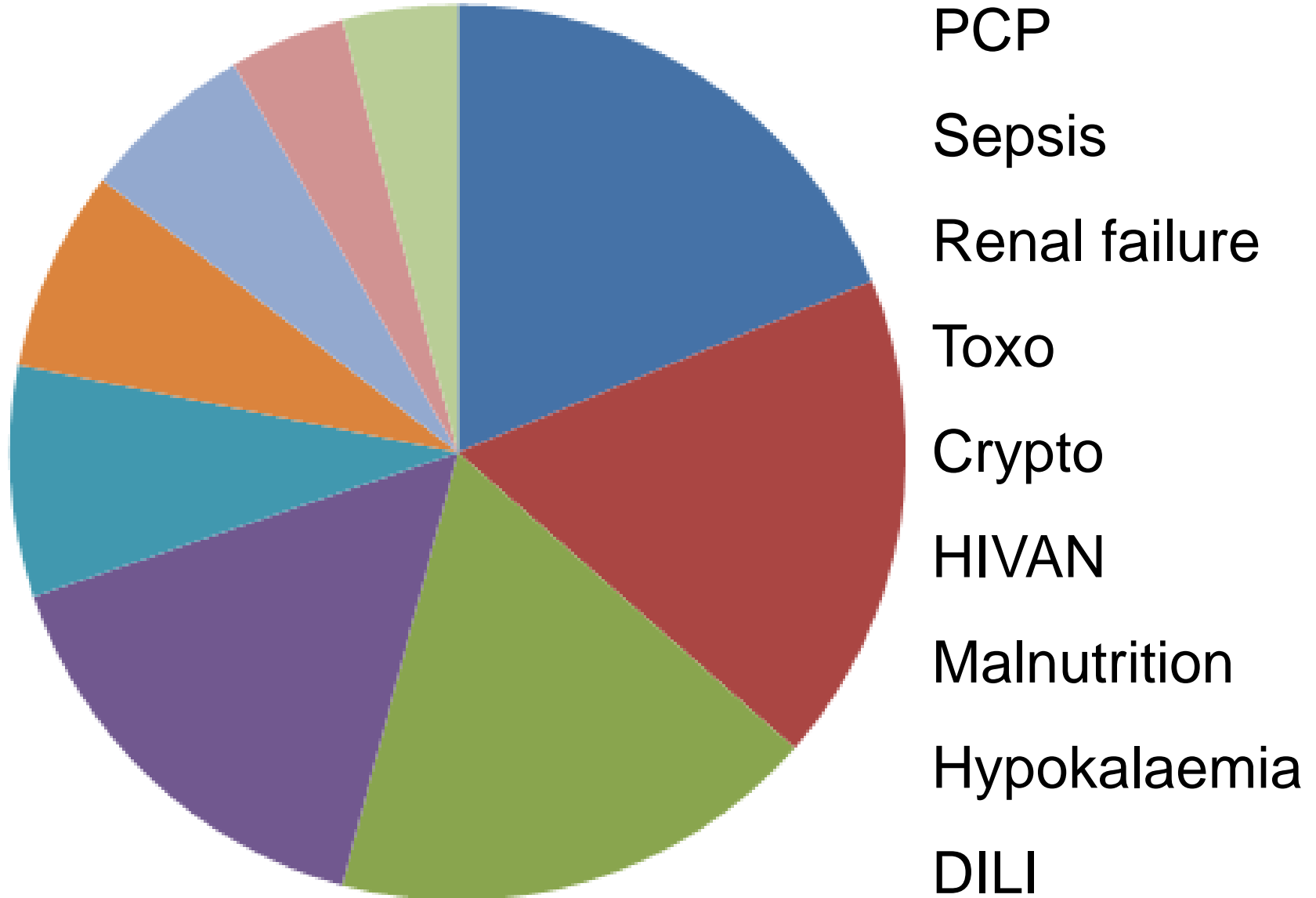
Kinshasa, 2015

# Mortality and co-morbidity IPD CHK, Kinshasa Jan-June 2018 n=266



Co-  
morbidity  
occurring at  
the same  
time as TB  
(Next slide)

# Co-morbidities occurring at the same time as TB



The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of an elephant's trunk, showing its characteristic wrinkled texture. The trunk curves from the left side towards the right, framing the central text.

**T R U N K K S**

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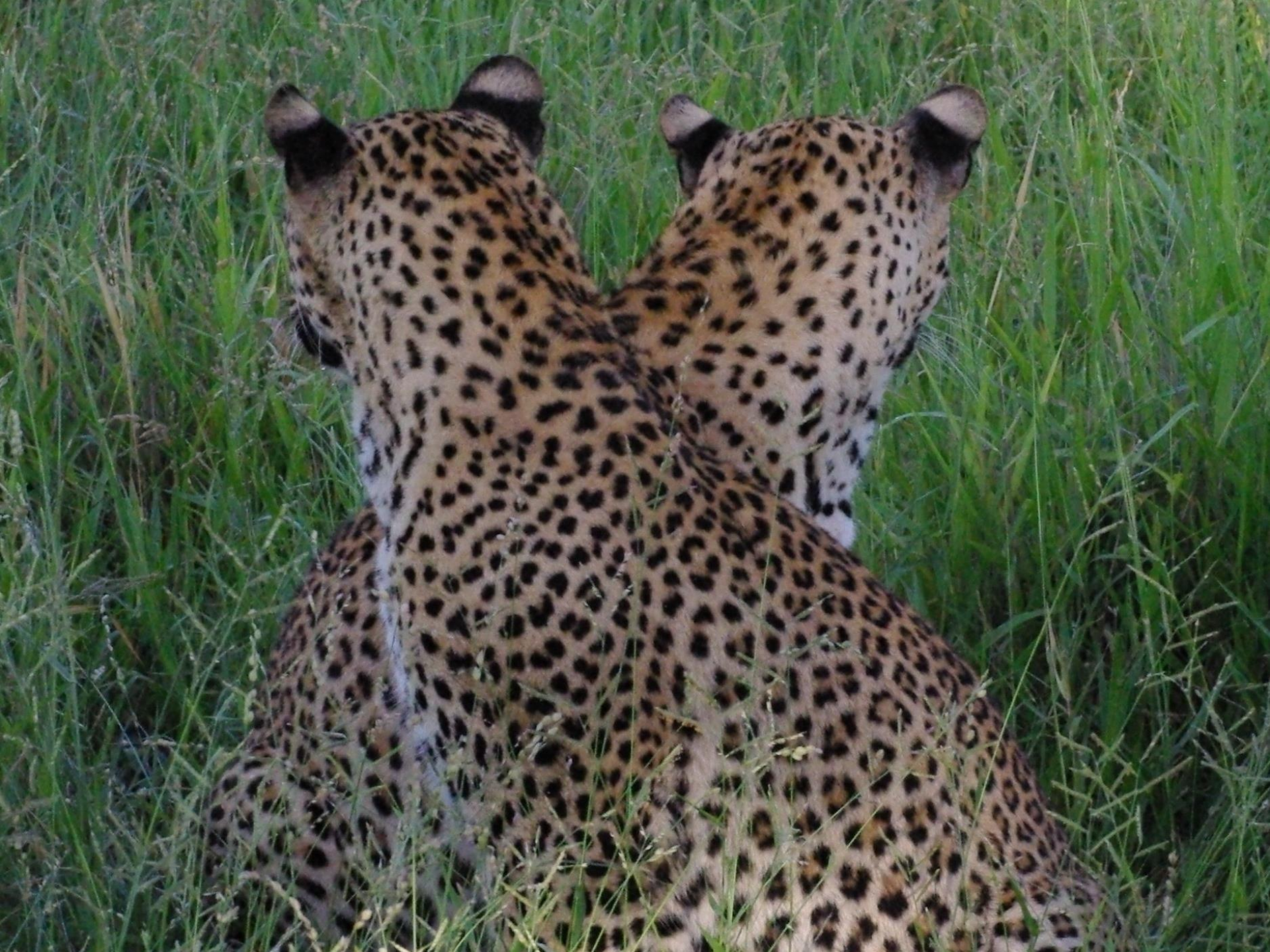




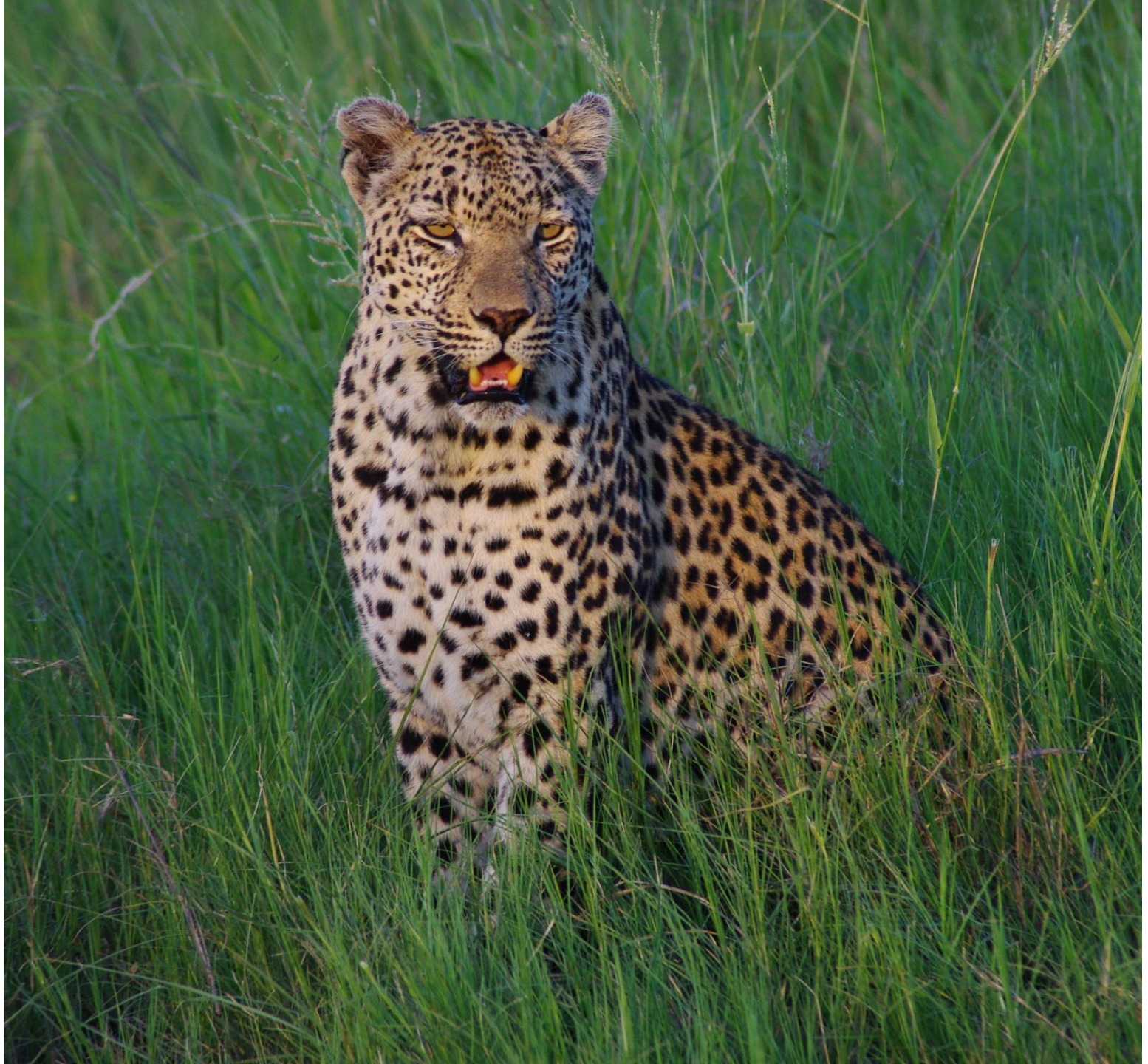












# Done with the theory. What do you do when you see a patient with AHD?

Firstly: **Don't miss them**

- Any new or sick patient or anyone returning to care needs a CD4 (RSA guidelines later)
- Remember: 50% of people with AHD are generally well.

When they are identified, what do you do?



# Advanced HIV: approach aims to:

- Reduce mortality
- Prevent and treat serious illnesses
- Ensure effective ART
- Return to a normal quality of life



The background of the slide features a close-up, grayscale image of an elephant's trunk, which is thick and wrinkled, curving from the left side towards the right. The trunk's texture is highly detailed, showing deep ridges and grooves.

**Think: T R U N K K S**

**T**B

**R**esp

**U**seless/**U**NUSED ART

**N**euro

**K**S and

**K**idneys

**S**epsis

**add malaria**

# First step

- Look for danger signs
- Refer as soon as possible
- Manage immediate problems within your capacity in the meantime – can save lives

## Remember the data:

- 37% mortality in hospital (mean CD4 84)
- 31% died within first 48 hours
- Severe wasting – 30% chance of dying

Whether in primary care or in hospital, identify patients at highest risk of mortality:



Danger  
signs



Whether in primary care or in hospital, identify patients at highest risk of mortality:



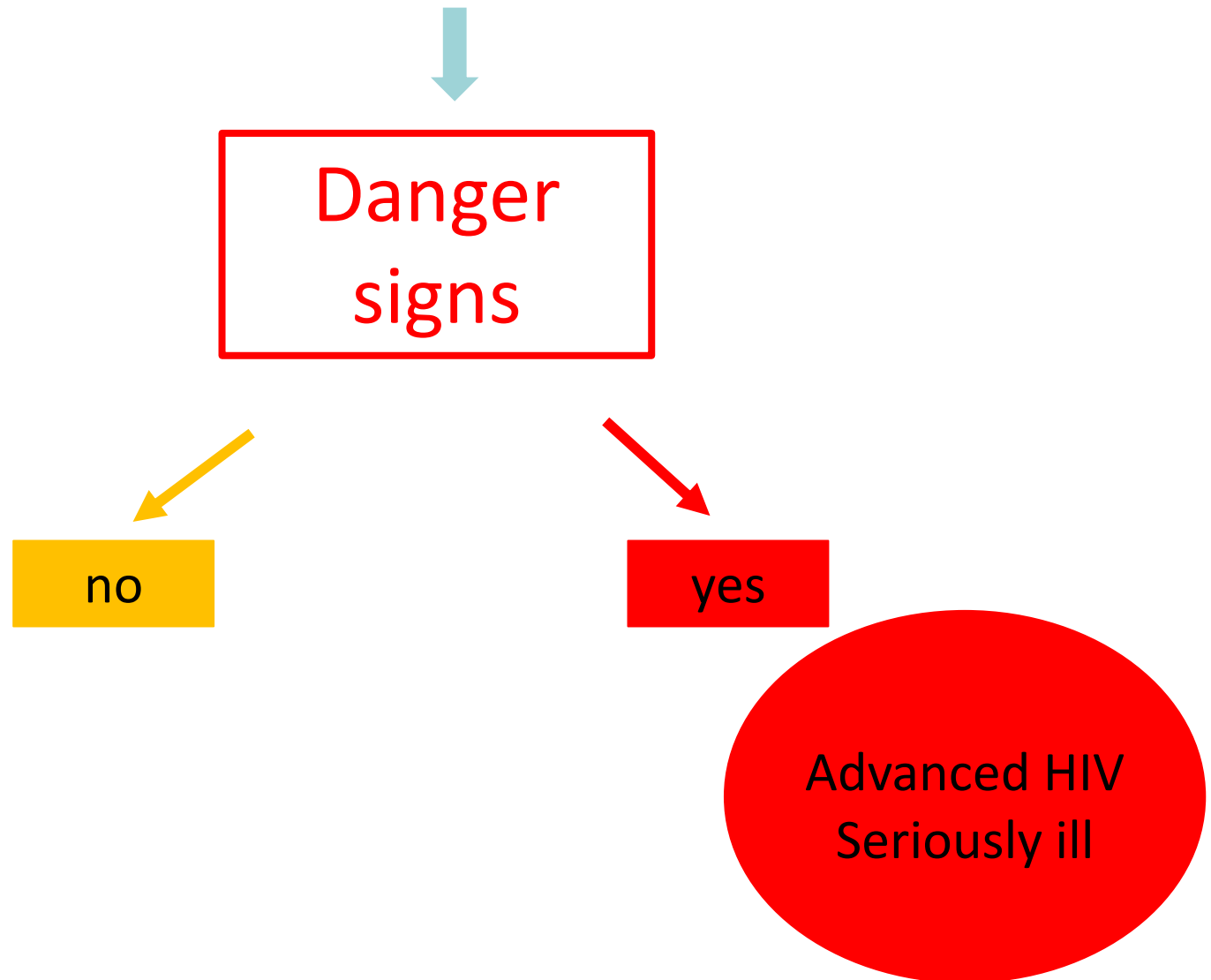
Danger  
signs



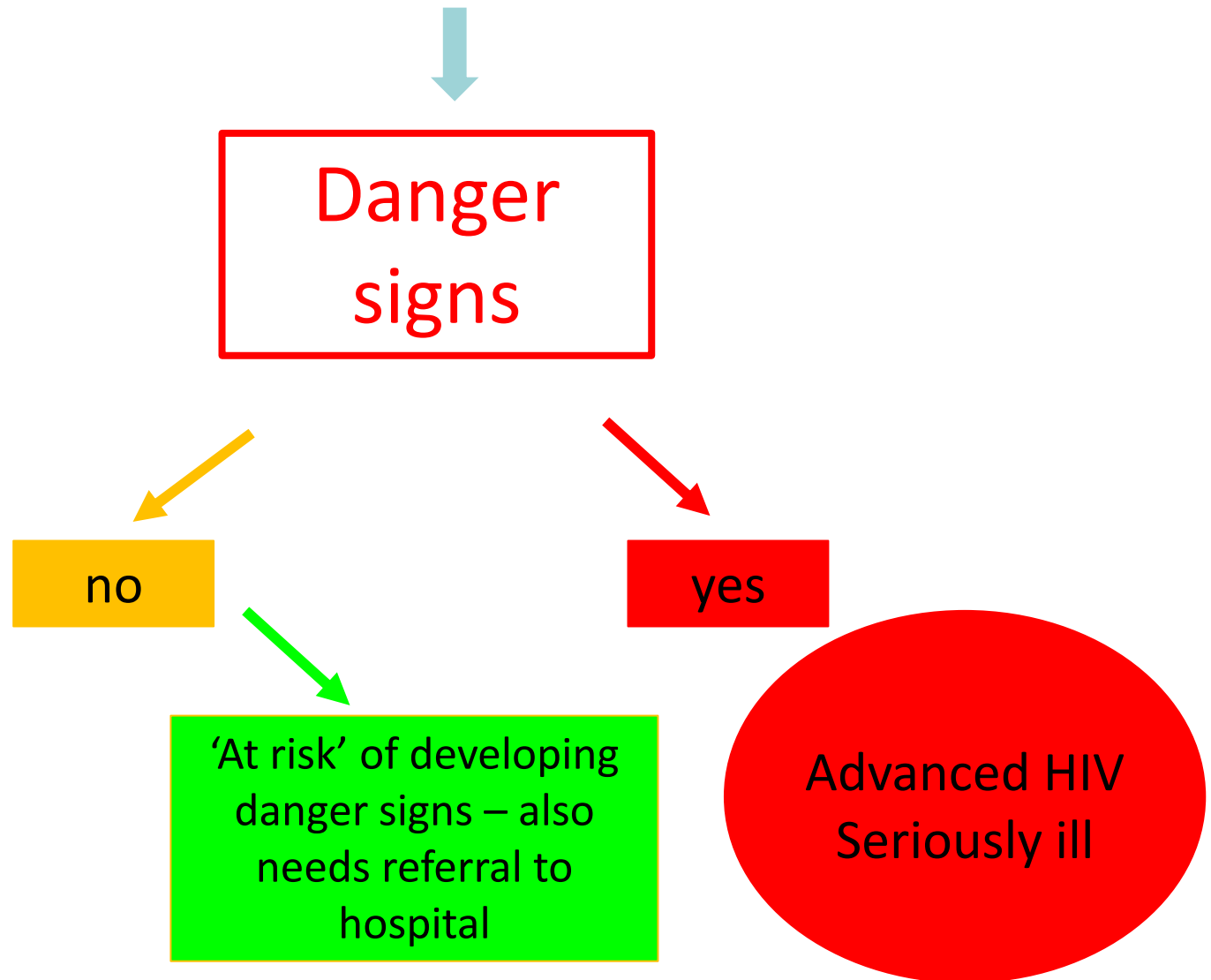
yes

Advanced HIV  
Seriously ill

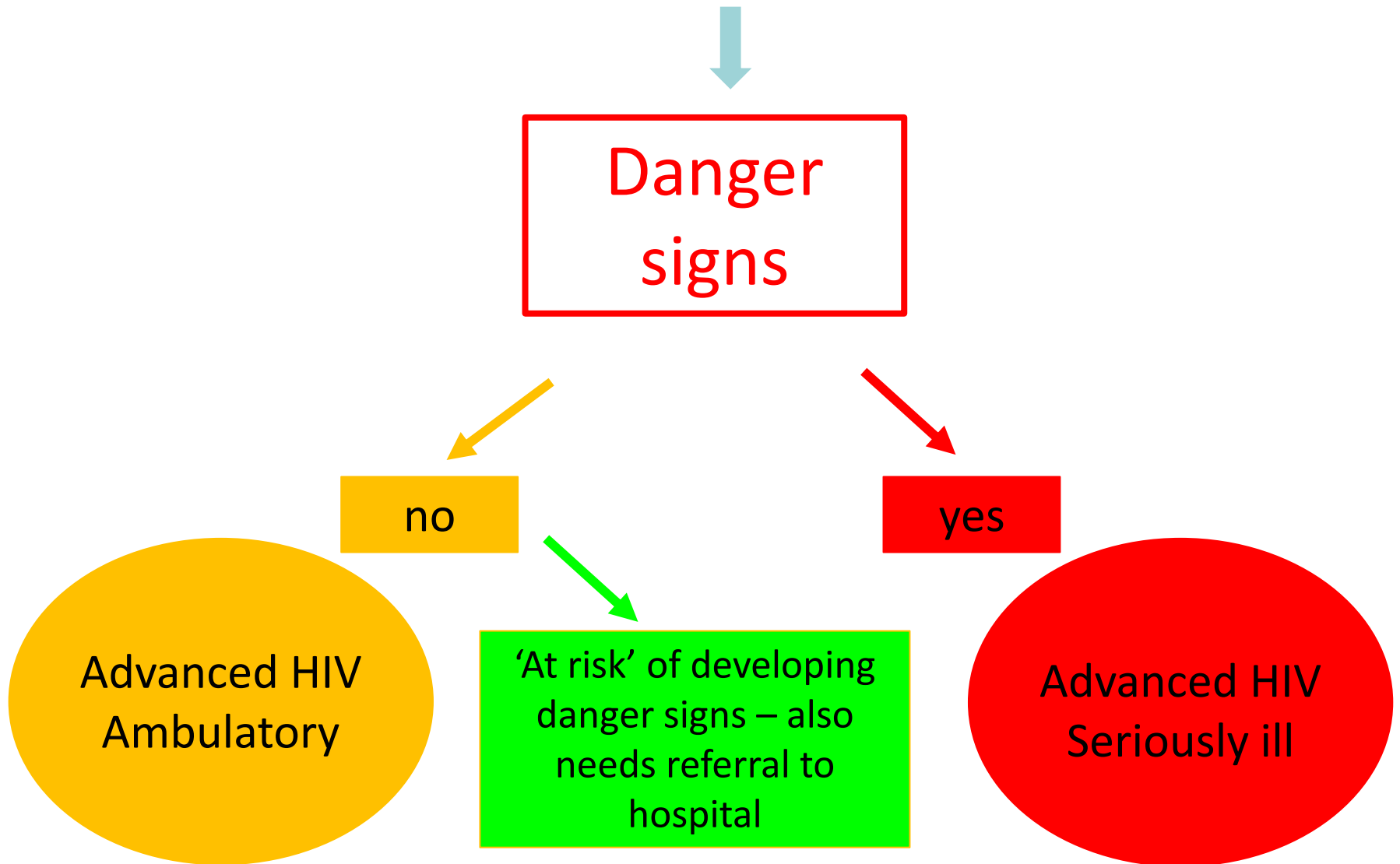
Whether in primary care or in hospital, identify patients at highest risk of mortality:



Whether in primary care or in hospital, identify patients at highest risk of mortality:



Whether in primary care or in hospital, identify patients at highest risk of mortality:



# What are the danger signs in adults?

Write down as many as you can



# Definition: seriously ill

## 1 or more danger signs:

- Respiratory rate  $> 30/\text{min}$
- Saturation  $< 90\%$
- Temperature  $> 39^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Heart rate  $> 120/\text{min}$
- Systolic BP  $< 90 \text{ mmHg}$
- Moderate or severe dehydration
- Incapable of walking unaided
- Altered mental state
- Any other abnormal neurology, including paralysis, seizures



# Definition: seriously ill

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Who should know the danger  
signs?



# Everyone should know about danger signs



Community

- Patients, families, community workers

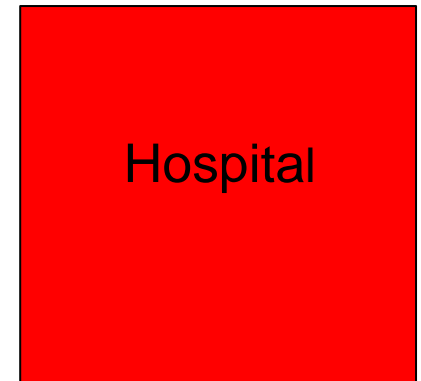
General approach:

- Unable to walk unaided, confusion



Primary  
Care

- Reception staff
- Counsellors
- Nurses, medical staff – and educate patients
- **Everyone!**



Hospital

**Everyone!**

# Referral to hospital

- **Refer ALL patients with danger signs**

Stabilize as much as possible while organizing transfer: start first dose of essential medications – antibiotics, treatment for PCP, TB treatment...

**And refer all with ‘pre-danger signs’: alert signs**

All who will benefit from hospital care before they develop danger signs

# Patients without danger signs needing referral to hospital: **'alert signs'**

- Needing investigations not available in clinic
  - Needing action on results same day or within a few days
  - Unable to return for repeated clinic visits within a few days
  - Not responding to outpatient treatment: antibiotics, anti-diarrhoeal treatment
- (Don't give 'routine' follow up appointments to patients who are 'unwell'- they need investigations and management)
- ..... another alert sign?

Would you refer this patient? Why or why not?



# Patients without danger signs needing referral to hospital: **'alert signs'**

- Needing investigations not available in clinic
- Needing action on results same day or within a few days
- unable to return for repeated clinic visits within a few days
- not responding to outpatient treatment: antibiotics, anti-diarrhoeal treatment

(Don't give 'routine' follow up appointments to patients who are 'unwell'- they need investigations and management)

- **wasting, lethargy, or are generally 'unwell'**

## **Homa Bay, Kenya study, 2015:**

- **Severe wasting: 30% chance of dying**
- **If unable to stand to assess weight: 37% chance of dying**

# Let's go back to our patient story:

- A 26 year old patient comes to your clinic. She started ART 2 years ago, but 4 months later returned to her village and was unable to continue treatment. She returned to your area a year ago, but was too scared to come to clinic because she thought the staff would be angry that she had stopped her treatment.
- She is complaining of a cough for 3 weeks, has lost weight and feels she sometimes has a fever.

## Questions:

- Could she have advanced HIV disease?
- Does this make any difference to your approach to her management?
- What is her risk of mortality?

# Summary of key points

- AHD is common; 50% of people look well
- Mortality rate in hospital is high:
  - up to 30% in studies
  - the lower the CD4 the higher the mortality
  - especially in first 48 hours
- All AHD patients need rapid assessment, including danger signs and rapid referral when indicated
- TB commonest cause of mortality but need to think (TRUNKKS) to look for other causes



# Review Learning Objectives

**On successful completion of AHD overview, you should now be able to:**

- Correctly identify patients with advanced HIV
- Describe the mortality risks, and identify the common causes of mortality (TRUNKKS)
- Identify danger signs and refer immediately
- Identify the patients without danger signs who need referral to hospital

**Strictly SEVEN minute break. Will start in exactly SEVEN minutes**

**Strictly SEVEN minute break.  
Will start promptly**

