CORRELATION OF MUCOCUTANEOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF HIV INFECTION WITH CD4 COUNTS

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Abstract:

Background:
As the search for reliable clinical indicators for management of Human immunodeficiency virus/AIDS continues, mucocutaneous manifestations of HIV are considered among key clinical indicators for prediction of underlying degree of immunosuppression, systemic opportunistic infections and disease progression.

Objective:
1) To study the prevalence of mucocutaneous manifestations in HIV seropositive patients attending the ART centre of our hospital
2) To correlate mucocutaneous manifestations with CD4 cell counts

Study design:
200 HIV seropositive patients of adult age group visiting our hospital will be included in the study. Information on demographics such as age, sex, transmission route, socioeconomic and educational status, CD4 counts and mucocutaneous findings will be collected through interview administered survey followed by oral and cutaneous examination.

Discussion:
The mucocutaneous manifestations of HIV are diverse, which encompasses opportunistic and emerging infections, neoplasms and inflammatory disorders caused by dysregulation of immune system. They could present in the usual way or in various novel atypical appearances. Mucocutaneous manifestations can occur in all the stages of HIV infection, some of them may be the first manifestation. They are the prognostic indicator for the development of AIDS.
**Conclusion:**

Mucocutaneous manifestations can arouse one to suspect the diagnosis of HIV infection in an otherwise healthy unwary patient. They can serve as a dependable marker of HIV disease. Awareness of the varied pattern of these manifestations would help in the early diagnosis and management of HIV infection, which would in turn decrease the morbidity and improve the quality of life of HIV-infected patients.