GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ORAL LESIONS AND CD4 COUNT OF HIV INFECTED PATIENTS TREATED WITH HAART – CHENNAI, SOUTH INDIA

Abstract:

Introduction: CD4 and HIV-1 RNA count have been considered as markers of HIV progression. The present study aims to compare gender differences in terms of select immunological parameters as well as the oral lesions among patients who are on HAART.

Materials & Methods:

In a cross-sectional design, consecutive patients on HAART for at least 6 months to 1-year were enrolled for this study (January 2014). The gender formed the predictor while the CD4 count (≤200 and >200), and oral lesions (as per EC clearing house 1993) formed the outcome variables. Data entry and analysis were done using SPSS 20.0. Descriptive statistics, unpaired-‘t’ test and Chi-square test were performed for the variables. P value ≤ 0.05 was taken as significant.

Results:

Two hundred and sixty five patients (265) fulfilling the criteria, out of 4891 patients, were selected for the study. Of these, 68.7% were males (n=183) and rest 82% were females (n=33.37). The mean age of males was 37.27±7.04 while for females it was 33.37±7.96 (P = 0.000). For males, mean CD4 count was 315.46±207.39, median 290.5 while for females, it was 362.36±212.24 and median 348.5 respectively. The difference was statistically significant (P=0.047). In CD4 count, 34.1% (n=62) of those with CD4<200 were females while 76.3% (n = 61) of those with CD4< 200 were males. The difference was not statistically significant. (P
Occurrence of oral lesions did not vary significantly between genders. Present study highlights that gender does not influence the oral lesions among HIV patients who have been initiated on HAART.