Abstract:

Introduction
Oral mucosal pigmentation (OMP) is considered as marker of HIV-mediated immunosuppression. The cause of these lesions is multifactorial. The present study attempted to evaluate the association of OMP with the immunological status among HIV patients under HAART.

Materials And Methods
A cross sectional, retrospective study was performed. All consecutive patients visiting RAGAS-YRG CARE was enrolled for the study. Only patients with details of HAART, CD4 count, anemia and OMP were included. Data entry and analysis was performed using SPSS 20.0. Descriptive statistics, Chi-square tests and univariate logistic regression analysis were performed. P value of ≤ 0.05 was taken as significant.

Results
Of the 4891 patients in cohort, 18.55%(n=904) cases had OMP and 37.2% (n=1821) were on HAART. Of the patients who were on HAART, 16.6% (n=302) had OMP. The most common site of OMP was dorsal tongue and buccal mucosa (7.9% each). On performing logistic regression analysis, in this 302 patients, it was observed that those patients with CD4 > 200, as compared to the CD4 ≤200, had odds ratio of 1.81 for occurrence of pigmentation (95% CI:1.41-2.23, p=0.000) while gender, HAART duration, anemia and use of Zidovudine was not significant.
Discussion
The result of the present study indicates that OMP occur in significant number of HIV patients under HAART. Those patients with CD4 count <200 have greater significance of OMP and this is not influenced by gender, HAART duration, co-existing anemia or use of Zidovudine. Further studies are needed to understand the importance of these findings.