STUDY OF ASSOCIATION OF ORAL MANIFESTATIONS WITH CD4 CELL COUNT IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING ANTI-RETRO VIRAL THERAPY: A PILOT STUDY

Abstract:

Introduction: HIV/ AIDS continues to pose enormous challenges to the population affected, both in terms of physical and emotional dimensions of quality of life. Oral Manifestations are often the first symptoms of HIV and thus useful in early detection of disease. While awareness of oral symptoms is imperative for affected individuals, a profound knowledge of the oral manifestations in HIV and the transition in manifestations with disease progression is a requisite for health care professionals.

Aim: To investigate the association of Oral Manifestations with CD4 cell count in patients on Anti-Retroviral therapy.

Materials and methods: The study was conducted on 150 patients undergoing Anti-Retroviral therapy in Guntur General Hospital, Andhra Pradesh, India. The study population was divided into 3 groups based on CD4 cell count, with the count being 200, 200-500, 500-800 in Groups 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Results: Of the 150 subjects, 30 belonged to group 1, 80 to group 2, and 40 to group 3. Pseudomembranous candidiasis was the most common finding in Group 1 (50%), followed by oral warts and angular chelitis. Major Aphthous ulcer was observed to be the most prevalent finding in group 2 (31.25%), followed by anaemic tongue. In group 3, a majority of subjects (37.5%) had erythematous candidiasis.

Conclusion: This study provides an excellent opportunity to comprehend the transition in oral manifestations with disease progression and also throws light on the side effects of Anti-retroviral therapy.