FACIAL LIPOATROPHY IN NIGERIAN HIV POSITIVE PATIENTS ON ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS

Dr. Oyeola EO\textsuperscript{1}, Prof Owotade FJ\textsuperscript{1}, Dr. Olasode\textsuperscript{1}Dr, Adesina\textsuperscript{1}, Dr. Oninla\textsuperscript{1}

ObafemiAwolowo University, Nigeria

Email : phemyhoye12@yahoo.com

Abstract

Background
The advent of the highly active antiretroviral (HAART) drugs has brought tremendous improvements to the management of HIV patients. The major drawbacks in this positive development are the associated complications. Facial lipoatrophy is one of the reported orofacial complications, prevalent with reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). This study was aimed at describing the pattern of presentation of this condition in our environment.

Methodology
Consenting patients on anti-retroviral drugs attending the HIV clinic of the ObafemiAwolowo University Teaching Hospitals’ Complex (OAUTHC) were recruited. Diagnosis of facial lipoatrophy was made based on history and clinical findings. Blood samples were taken for CD4 count. Results were analyzed with STATA version 12.

Results
Ninety subjects(73 females, 27 males) with mean age\textsuperscript{SD} of 40.5(10.8) yearsparticipated in the study. Sixty percent of the participants were on lamivudine, zidovudine and nevirapine combination therapy (Group A), 40% were on Lamivudine, Efavirenz, and Tenofovir (Group B). Only 4(4.44%) of the subjects developed facial lipoatrop (3 from A and 1 from B). Subjects
with facial lipoatrophy claimed not to be bothered about it. The CD4 count of those with facial lipoatrophy was less than those without it but the difference was not significant, P=0.169.

**Conclusion**

The prevalence of facial lipoatrophy in HIV patients on HAART was found to be 4.4% with reduced CD4 count. Facial lipoatrophy does not appear to constitute a problem in a setting where NRTIs are still prescribed.

**Key Words**

Facial lipoatrophy, antiretrovirals, CD4 count.