ORAL MANIFESTATIONS OF PATIENTS WITH HIV/AIDS BEFORE AND AFTER HAART IN A SOUTH INDIAN POPULATION

Abstract

**Background:** HIV infection remains a global health problem, although the development of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) has significantly modified the course of HIV disease into a manageable disease with improved quality of life mainly in the developed countries. Very few studies are available regarding effect of HAART on oral lesions in developing countries like India.

**Aims and Objectives:** To document and compare oral lesions in HIV seropositive patients before and after HAART.

**Materials and methods:** Oral manifestations were recorded in 320 HIV seropositive patients attending to the Voluntary Counselling & Confidential Testing Centre (VCCTC) at the Government General Hospital, Guntur, before and after treating with HAART and the results were statistically analysed using students t test and chi square test.

**Results:** Oral Candidiasis was significantly reduced in patients under HAART after 3 months. Also there was decreased incidence of periodontal diseases but increased hyperpigmentation in patients undergoing HAART.

**Conclusion:** The oral manifestations of HIV infection have changed because of the advent of HAART. Many opportunistic infections have resolved as a result of an improved immune system. Though the risk of hyper pigmentation in those with HAART has increased, the prevalence of oral candidiasis and periodontal diseases were less in patients who had access to HAART.