PERIODONTAL STATUS OF HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS UNDERGOING HIGHLY ACTIVE ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (HAART) COMPARED TO HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS NOT UNDER TREATMENT: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

Abstract:

Introduction: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection is a devastating disease which produces serious socioeconomic effects and changes in population structures worldwide. Despite the recent advances in antiretroviral therapy and prevention of HIV infection, dental and other healthcare practitioners will be required to continue to treat oral and periodontal conditions unique to HIV/AIDS as well as conventional periodontal diseases in the HIV-infected patient.

Aims and objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate if there are any differences regarding the prevalence and severity of periodontal diseases between untreated HIV-infected patients and patients undergoing HAART.

Materials and methods: The study population comprised of 550 HIV positive patients. The participants were divided into two groups: patients undergoing HAART (275) and patients who are not undergoing HAART (275). Both the study groups subjects are with CD4 count above 350 cells/µL. Various parameters like Probing pocket depth (PPD), Gingival recession, Clinical attachment level (CAL), Papilla bleeding score (PBS), Periodontal screening index (PSI) apart from demographic details are recorded.
Results: There was no significant difference in the mean PPD, CAL and PBS between non HAART and HAART groups respectively. However, the mean PSI score was significantly higher in Non HAART group than HAART group (2.03±0.66 Vs 1.91±0.56) (p=0.018). The prevalence of moderate periodontitis is more in Non HAART group subjects compared to HAART group subjects. Though it is statistically significant the difference is not much. (p=0.019). Other demographic details are compared between the two groups.

Conclusion: The high prevalence of periodontitis strongly suggests the need for prevention, early diagnosis and adequate therapy of periodontitis. Our findings recommend daily personal oral hygiene procedures together with professional dental check-ups in order to prevent oral and periodontal diseases in HIV infected patients, regardless of the level of their immunosuppression.

Key words: HAART, CD4 count, periodontal status.