THE EFFECT OF ANTI RETRO VIRAL THERAPY ON ORAL CANDIDIASIS

Abstract:

Background:
HIV related oral conditions occur in a large proportion of patients. Oral candidiasis is a reliable indicator of decrease in CD4 count. The present study aims to find the association between HAART, CD4 count and oral candidiasis.

Materials and method:
Oral candidial lesions were studied in HIV seropositive patients who attended YRG CARE center from 2007-2013 and are under HAART therapy (n=1228). In this cross-sectional study candidiasis was diagnosed based on EC Clearing House classification 1993. Data entry and statistical analysis were performed using SPSS 20.0. Descriptive statistics and student’s chi-square test was done. p<0.05 was taken as significant.

Results:
Among 1212 patients there were 866 males (mean age - 38.7\pm8.37) and 346 females (mean age - 34.66\pm9.01) (p=0.00). The mode of transmission was heterosexual for 1101(89.7%) patients. The CD4 count was available for 1205 patients of which CD4 count \leq 200 was seen in 427(35%) and CD4 count \geq 200 was seen in 778(65%) patients. There is a significant difference in the prevalence of candidiasis among CD4 count \leq 200 and \geq 200 group (p<0.05).

Conclusion:
The study confirms that even with HAART, presence of oral candidiasis suggests immune decline as reflected by decrease in CD4 count.