ORAL CANDIDAL SPECIES VARIATION AND ANTI-FUNGAL SUSCEPTIBILITY IN HIV POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS WITH AND WITHOUT HAART

Abstract:

Introduction: Candida, a normal commensal, presents as opportunistic endogenous infection in human beings and has become an important cause of morbidity and mortality in immunocompromised conditions where, an increased incidence of clinical Candidiasis, showing greater than before resistance to antifungal agents is observed, necessitating speciation and antifungal susceptibility.

Aims & Objectives: To know the oral Candidal carriage, the prevalent Candidal species and their antifungal susceptibility from Oral rinse samples in Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive patients with and without Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy (HAART).

Materials and Methods: A total of 150 patients attending to the Government General Hospital, Guntur, were selected for the study. 50 were controls (Group-I – HIV Negative asymptomatic individuals). 50 Patients diagnosed positive for HIV and naïve to HAART were Group-II. 50 patients who were HIV positive individuals with CD4+ count less than 250 and already started on HAART comprised the Group-III. After informed consent, oral rinse samples were collected.
and subjected to various mycological tests, after which, antifungal susceptibility testing was also done.

**Results:** Out of total 150 cases, 53 were culture positive. Candida *albicans* was the predominant isolate, followed by Candida *tropicalis*. Of the 53 isolates tested for antifungal susceptibility, Fluconazole (75.6%) showed highest susceptibility followed by Ketoconazole (71.4%).

**Conclusion:** Candida infection in immunocompromised patients are often severe, rapidly progressive and difficult to treat as they are resistant to conventional antifungal agents. Speciation and susceptibility tests are to be strongly recommended to have a good control over the disease.