Abstract:
Aim: Oral lesions are considered as clinical marker of HIV infection. The advent of highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) has changed the natural progression of the disease caused by Human immunodeficiency virus and has decreased the incidences of opportunistic infections. This poster aims to study the prevalence of oral lesions among pediatric HIV patients.

Materials and methods: A cross sectional study was conducted over a period of one year between 2012-2013, data including demographic details, oral lesions, HAART details and investigations done were collected in a well structured case sheet and analyzed.

Results: A total of 83 pediatric patients were screened. Among the 83 patients 47 were male children and 36 were female children. Ninety nine percent (82/83) of the children acquired HIV through vertical transmission and one percent (1/83) acquired HIV through surgery. Among the male children 81% (38/47) were on HAART. Among the female children 86% (31/36) were on HAART. Based on the CD4 counts these children were classified into three groups as no evidence of immunosuppression (CD4>500) – 90.4%( 75/83) patients were in this category, 9.6% ( 8/83) of the children were in the category of moderate suppression (500>CD4> 200). None of the children were in the severe immunosuppression group. The oral lesions noted
among this cohort of patients were Marginal gingivitis (65%), Dental caries (58%), Root stumps (14.5%), dental fluorosis (1.25%), pre mobility shedding (1.25%).

**Conclusion:** As none of the children in the present study were in the levels of severe immunosuppression and had no presentation of oral opportunistic lesions, this study supports that the oral opportunistic lesions are good predictors of immunosuppression.