ORAL LESIONS IN PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS ON HAART

Abstract:

Background

Majority of children on HAART achieve immune reconstitution and virology control, however, a subset of individuals clinically worsen on recovery. It is important to profile and characterize oral lesion in children on HAART as they may be clinical predictors of HAART failure or syndromes related to HAART

Method

Children aged between 1 month to 14 years on HAART, totaling 240, were examined for oral lesions at the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Results

22 children out of 240 presented with either active lesions or scarring as a result of previous disease whilst on HAART, reporting a 9.2% prevalence rate of oral lesions in children on HAART. The average current age of children presenting with oral lesions is 10.7 years. Hyperpigmentation due to HAART accounted for 50% of intra oral lesions detected. 10 children presented with extra oral lesion and 80% of these lesions were caused by diseases related to Herpesviridae family. 6 out of 22 presenting with oral lesions showed discordant responses to HAART

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Conclusion

Despite the socio economic challenges faced by developing countries such as South Africa, the low prevalence rate reported in this study highlights the success of HAART in this population. The significant association of current age and the presence of lesions reflects the evolution of prevention of mother to child transmission strategies and more timely diagnosis of HIV and HAART implementation over the last 10 years. Further research should be conducted on discordant response to HAART in children.