

PREVALENCE OF ORAL CANDIDIASIS IN HIV PATIENTS IN THE ERA OF HAART THROUGH SALIVARY CANDIDAL CARRIAGE

AIM:

To estimate the prevalence of oral candidiasis in HIV patients in the era of HAART through salivary candidal carriage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A cross sectional study was carried out to assess the prevalence of oral candidiasis in HIV patients under Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) in the ART centre in Madurai Government Rajaji hospital. A total of 200 HIV positive patients were constantly screened orally when they come for review for the prevalence of the candidiasis during the study time. The collected salivary samples were cultured in the Department of Microbiology - American college, Madurai. HiCrome™ Candida Differential Agar medium was used for rapid isolation and identification of Candida species from mixed cultures in clinical and non-clinical samples.

RESULTS:

The prevalence of oral candidiasis in HIV patients under HAART regimen was 64.11%. The prevalence and the CFU of the oral candidiasis does serve as a marker for HAART failure. The most common culture positive species is Candida krusei accounting for about 47.17 %. Increased association was found between C.albicans and C.krusei with 26 isolates. There was a good response for the HAART drugs with a steadily increasing CD4 counts as the duration of the regimen increased. There was no impact on the drugs or the CD4 counts irrespective of the species cultured.

CONCLUSION:

Prevalence of oral candidiasis is decreased with increase in the duration of HAART regimen. The CFU of oral candidiasis plays a pivotal role in the CD4 count alterations, thus serves as a marker of HAART failure.

KEY WORDS: HAART, CD4, oral candidiasis.