

COMPARATIVE STUDY ON CLINICO-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF SYMPTOMATIC VAGINAL DISCHARGE AMONG HIV INFECTED AND NONINFECTED WOMEN

ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Vaginal discharge is considered as a common gynaecological symptom affecting reproductive age group women. The risk of acquisition and transmission of HIV increases with the presence of vaginal discharge. Due to the presence of HIV infection, the clinical presentation of vaginal discharge, its course and complications, response to treatment can be modified resulting in increased morbidity of the patients.

Aim:

To compare the prevalence, socio-demographic variables and infectivity pattern of vaginal discharge between HIV infected and non-infected women.

Materials & Methods:

The study population comprised of 200 women with complaints of vaginal discharge attending the Institute of Venereology, Madras Medical College, Chennai between June 2017 to May 2018.

Results:

In HIV positive women, the most common cause of abnormal vaginal discharge was vulvovaginal candidiasis (41.2%) followed by bacterial vaginosis (23.5%) and trichomoniasis (11.8%). Whereas, in HIV negative women, the commonest cause was bacterial vaginosis (39.9%) followed by candidiasis (27.9%) and trichomoniasis (15.8%). Cervicitis was found to be more common in HIV infected women (17.6%) than HIV uninfected women (3.8%). Mixed infection in HIV negative (1%) were relatively less compared to HIV positive women (5.9%).

Conclusion:

More emphasis should be laid upon patients who are HIV sero-positive, ensuring a complete cure from these diseases as they already suffer from immunocompromised status. These patients need an extended course of treatment and are more prone for recurrence.

Keywords :

Vaginal Discharge, Bacterial Vaginosis, Trichomoniasis, Vulvovaginal Candidiasis.