

Impact of HIV on Specific Biological Parameters

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Impact of HIV on Specific Biological Parameters. Ramesh K, Gangadhara Goud T, Sangeetha Gandhi, Vishwas Rao. Background: AIDS is a pandemic now. It has multiple risk factors and of all the risk factors, sexual behavior acts as a double edged sword. On one hand, the risk of HIV acquisition is known to be closely associated with unprotected sexual intercourse and on the other, diagnosis of AIDS is shown to have a paramount importance on the sexual behavior of the person. Research shows that there are HIV infected people who do engage in unprotected sex, just as there are HIV negative people or people with unknown sero status who do so. Sex is an integral part of one's living. As we extend our vision to the effects of sexual behavior following diagnosis of AIDS from conventional view of sexual behavior as a risk factor, other curious questions take wings. How exactly does diagnosis of AIDS have its influence on sexual behavior of the diseased? Does the diagnosis of HIV positive help in reducing the risky sexual behavior or do people still opt to continue the same way? In this study we have tried to discover answers to some of these questions. Methodology Study Area: ART Centre, Vijayanagara Institute of Medical Sciences Bellary, Karnataka Study design: Case - series study. Study period: March 2010 to September 2010. Study Population: HIV positive patients coming to the ART centre for seeking treatment. Sample Size & Sampling technique: Totally 100 patients included for the study based on consecutive sampling technique.

Method of Collection of Data

Permission from respective authorities and written consent from study participants was obtained. Data was collected using a pre tested semi structured questionnaire. Data was analyzed using SPSS 15.0 and McNemar test was used to compare qualitative variables before and after diagnosis of AIDS.

Results

The study subjects included both males (54%) and females (46%). The educational status is less than primary schooling in 88% of study subjects and 90% are married. Among patients, 48% were diagnosed on routine blood investigation and 40% on voluntary. There is no much difference in use of contraceptives before (16%) and after (18%) diagnosis but there is a significant difference in Condom use (before- 20% and after-37%). Sex with multiple partners was found in 34% of patients before diagnosis but it reduced to 13% after the diagnosis. There is no change in alcoholic behavior. Even after diagnosis, 33% patients continued have unprotected sex with their partners and 25% of patients lost interest in sex after diagnosis.

Conclusion

Even after the diagnosis, many sexual risk behaviors remain unchanged among HIV positive patients.