

Otorhinolaryngeal manifestations in HIV positive patients in a Rural setup

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Introduction

Human immunodeficiency virus(HIV) and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has a profound effect on practice of medicine in 20 years since its discovery. Initially a disease of homosexuals and haemophiliacs,now it affects individuals of every age, sex and socioeconomic group, becoming a worldwide epidemic and spreading into regions of globes such as SE asia.In 2008, there were about 4.7million [3.8million-5.5million] Asians living with HIV/AIDS including 3,50,000 [2,60,000-4,00,000] who became newly infected in 2007, also about 21,000 children were newly infected with HIV. Head and neck manifestations of disease are prevalent, and upto 100% of HIV patients will have some head and neck presentation of the disease during the course of their illness.Often an Otolaryngologist is the primary physician to diagnose HIV infection. They represent a diverse spectrum of diseases ranging from common complaints treated as sinusitis and otitis media to unique presentations.

Materials and methods

This study was undertaken in the HIV positive patients visiting A.V.B.R.Hospital, Wardha.Type of study-cross sectional studyProposed study period- 1 month Study population- 30.

Methods

The study would be performed using proforma incorporating relevant aspects of the study.The consent by the patient and his-her confidentiality are primary.

Inclusion criterion

All HIV positive patients who have developed ENT infections/malignancies after diagnosis of HIV.

Exclusion criterion

Patients having ENT infection/ malignancies (chronic symptoms >3months) prior to diagnosis of HIV.

Results

The survey of patients showed patients with 36% Ear manifestations{11}* , 26% Nose related{8}* , 23% with neck swellings{7}* , and 13% with oral and oropharyngeal symptoms{4}* .In ear, mainly Discharge-45%(1)* & Earache 27%(3)* were found.In nose, discharge made up 12.5%(1) and Obstruction and epistaxis formed-50%(4)*As for neck swellings, mainly cervical lymphadenopathy was found-80%(4)*Whereas, oral and oropharyngeal symptoms pointed to oral lesions with pain-33%(3)* followed by painful swallowing and sore throat-44%(4)* (*-no. of patients).

Conclusion

Patients in rural areas mainly presented with ear discharge, nasal obstruction, neck swellings and Oral lesions as main symptoms.Hence we conclude that an ENT surgeon should be watchful for any ENT manifestations of HIV infection,specially the head and neck region.A combined effort as well as a retrospective outlook can thus elevate survival rates.