

Anti-HIV seropositivity among different group of patients; an observation from a secondary medical center in an endemic area of HIV infection

Pathum Sookaromdee^{1*}, Viroj Wiwanitkit²

¹TWS Medical Center, Bangkok Thailand

²Honorary professor, Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India; visiting professor, Hainan Medical University, China; adjunct professor, Joseph Ayobabalola Uuniversity, Nigeria

Correspondence to:

Pathum Sookaromdee, Email: pathumsook@gmail.com

Received: 7 July 2018

Accepted: 20 September 2018

ePublished: 13 December 2018

Abstract

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is an important medical problem worldwide. Since there is still no curative treatment, the good management for the HIV infected patient is necessary. For early diagnosis and further prompt treatment, the anti-HIV serological test becomes a useful laboratory investigation. This test is performed worldwide. Here, the authors report the data observed on the anti-HIV seropositivity among different group of patients receiving anti-HIV serological test in a secondary medical center in an endemic area of HIV in Indochina, Thailand.

Keywords: HIV, Anti-HIV, seropositivity

Citation: Sookaromdee P, Wiwanitkit V. Anti-HIV seropositivity among different group of patients; an observation from a secondary medical center in an endemic area of HIV infection. J Prev Epidemiol. 2019;4(1):e06.



Introduction

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is an important medical problem that can be seen around the world. The HIV infection is still prevalent in several areas of the world including to Southeast Asia. As a disease that cannot be successfully cured, the good clinical management and follow-up of the HIV infected cases is the present standard management in HIV medicine. For good disease control, the early detection of the disease and prompt management is necessary.

To get the diagnosis of HIV infection, the basic important laboratory test is the anti-HIV serological test. The test is performed worldwide (1). The epidemiological data on the seropositivity in different setting is interesting. Here, the authors report the data observed on the anti-HIV seropositivity among different group of patients receiving anti-HIV serological test in a secondary medical center in an endemic area of HIV in Indochina, Thailand.

Materials and Methods

This is a retrospective study aiming at summarization of the data on anti-HIV seropositivity among different group of patients according to the active HIV screening program receiving anti-HIV serological test in our setting, a secondary

medical center in an endemic area of HIV in Indochina, Thailand. According to the to the active HIV screening program, the free anti-HIV screening test is provided to these groups of patients: a) males who have sex with male (MSM), b) sexual worker of prostitute (SW), c) pregnant woman and d) spouse/partner of the seropositive pregnant woman. The 3-year period (2015-2017) data was retrospectively reviewed. The seropositive rate of the patients in different group is calculated and presented.

Results

According to analysis of the 3-year period data, there are 4913 patients receiving the Anti HIV screening test according to the HIV screening program. The seropositivity is observed in 30 cases giving the rate equal to 0.6 %. The details of the seropositivity in different groups of patients are presented in Table 1.

Discussion

According to the present study, the anti-HIV seropositive rate from the screening is still considerable high, nearly 1 %, indicating the importance of the HIV infection in our setting. Regarding the subgroup analysis, the highest chance of anti-HIV seropositivity is observed in screening spouse/partner of the seropositive pregnant woman and the lowest

Core tip

Since there is still no curative treatment, the good management for the HIV infected patient is necessary. For early diagnosis and further prompt treatment, the anti-HIV serological test becomes a useful laboratory investigation.

chance is observed in screening pregnant woman. This might imply the success of promotion of HIV prevention among the woman before childbearing in Thailand (2). The observed rate anti-HIV seropositivity in our setting is similar to those observed from other Asian countries such as China (rate = 1.3–1.4 %) (3) that heavily promote the campaign to prevent HIV infection in the pregnant woman. Another interesting observation is the null chance among the SW in this study. Indeed, SW is a well-known risk group to bear occult HIV infection (4). However, due to the promotion of prevention behavior with a special focus on the SW in Thailand, the SW seems to become a safe group in the present.

Conclusion

There is a discrepancy of anti-HIV seropositivity rate among different groups of patients. The most risk group to have a seropositivity from anti-HIV screening test is the spouse/partner of the seropositive pregnant woman.

Authors' contribution

Both authors wrote the manuscript equally.

Conflict of interests

The authors declared no competing interests.

Table 1. Anti-HIV seropositive rate in different groups of patients

Group	No. of all cases in each group	No. of seropositive cases	Seropositive rate (%)
1. MSM	856	21	2.45
2. SW	1250	0	0
3. Pregnant women	2800	5	0.18
4. Spouse/partner of the seropositive pregnant woman*	7	4	57.14

Some seropositive pregnant women have more than 1 spouse/partner.

Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (including plagiarism, data fabrication, double publication) have been completely observed by the authors.

Funding/Support

None.

References

1. Mounier-Jack S, Nielsen S, Coker RJ. HIV testing strategies across European countries. *HIV Med.* 2008;9:13-9.
2. Pancharoen C, Thisyakorn U. Preventive strategies of perinatal HIV-1 transmission: an experience from Thailand. *Expert Opin Pharmacother.* 2003;4:179-82.
3. Duan S, Shen S, Bulterys M, Jia Y, Yang Y, Xiang L, et al. Estimation of HIV-1 incidence among five focal populations in Dehong, Yunnan: a hard hit area along a major drug trafficking route. *BMC Public Health.* 2010;10:180.
4. Footer KH, Silberzahn BE, Tormohlen KN, Sherman SG. Policing practices as a structural determinant for HIV among sex workers: a systematic review of empirical findings. *J Int AIDS Soc.* 2016;19:20883.