Original article

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF HIV POSITIVE PATIENTS OF MUCOCUTANEOUS MANIFESTATION ATTENDING SKIN & VD DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SURAT

Yogesh Patel[1], Dipak Umarigar[2], Bipin Vasava[3], Nipul Vara[4], Nikita Patel[5]

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Author's Affiliation:
[1]Assistant Professor Skin & VD Department; [2]Professor & Head, Skin & VD Department, Government Medical College, Surat; [3]Assistant Professor, Community Medicine Department, SMIMER, Surat; [4]Assistant Professor, Skin & VD Department, Government Medical College, Baroda; [5]Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Navsari.

Correspondence:
Dr. Yogesh Patel
dryogeshpatel_20@yahoo.com

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: AIDS, the acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome is a fatal illness caused by a retrovirus known as human immuno-deficiency virus which break down the body's immune system, leaving the victim vulnerable to a host of of life threatening opportunistic infections, neurological disorders or unusual malignancies.

Objectives: The objectives of the study were to study socio demographic profile of HIV positive patients and to find out the possible high risk behaviour of having HIV.

Methodology: It is a cross sectional study conducted at Skin & VD department of Government Medical College, Surat. After taking informed consent, a semi structured and pre-tested proforma was used to collect all the quantitative information related to possible mode of transmission of HIV and history of risk factors in the spouse and parents in case of children, from the all HIV positive patients attending OPD who full fill the inclusion criteria of the study.

Results: The present study included 100 HIV positive patients attending OPD during June 2004 to December 2005. 94 % patients were among the sexually active group 15-49 years comparable with 89% of NACO report. In present study there were 76% male and 24% female compared to 70.82% & 29.17% respectively in NACO report. 69% patients married, 12% unmarried,4% divorced 10% were widow and 5% children in this study.53% patients were either illiterate or primary education.

Conclusion: Until a vaccine or cure for AIDS is found, the only means at present available is health education to enable people to make life saving choices avoiding multiple sexual relation and use condom.

Key words: Socio-Demographic profile, HIV/AIDS, HIV positive

INTRODUCTION

AIDS, the acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome is a fatal illness caused by a retrovirus known as human immuno-deficiency virus which breaks down the body's immune system, leaving the victim vulnerable to a host of life threatening opportunistic infections, neurological disorders or unusual malignancies. Once infected, it is probable that a person will be infected for life.[1]

National AIDS Control Organisation estimated that 2.39 million people live with HIV/AIDS in

India in 2008-09. [2] A more recent investigation by the Million Death Study Collaborators in the British Medical Journal (2010) estimates the population to be between 1.4-1.6 million people. [3]

The last decade has seen a 50% decline in the number of new HIV infections.[4] According to more recent data, India has demonstrated an overall reduction of 57 percent in estimated annual new HIV infections (among adult population) from 0.274 million in 2000 to 0.116 million in 2011, and the estimated number of people living with HIV was 2.08 million in 2011. [5]

The adult HIV prevalence in India is declining from estimated level of 0.41% in 2000 to 0.31% in 2009.[6] According to WHO and NACO estimate, 1.44 lakh people in Gujarat are living with HIV. [7]

Mucocutaneos manifestation is one of the common opportunistic infection in people living with HIV.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This is an OPD based cross sectional study conducted among HIV positive patients who attended Skin & VD department of Government Medical College Surat during the period from June 2004 to December 2005.

Person tested positive by HIV ELISA test and having Mucocutaneos manifestation were included in the study.

After taking informed consent, a semi structured and pre-tested proforma was used to collect all the quantitative information related to possible mode of transmission of HIV and history of risk factors in the spouse and parents in case of children, from the all HIV positive patients attending OPD who full fill the inclusion criteria of the study. The data were entered and analyzed by Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS

In our study 94 % patients were among the sexually active group 15-49 years. In present study there were 76% male and 24% female. In this study revealed 69% patients married, 17% unmarried(5 % children),4% divorced and 10% were widow in this study.53% patients were either illiterate or primary education. In our study 55% patients were migrant. The main factors which have contributed to India's large HIV-infected population are extensive labour migration and low literacy levels in certain rural areas resulting in lack of awareness and gender disparity. The Government of India has also raised concerns about the role of intravenous drug use and prostitution in spreading AIDS, especially in north-east India and certain urban pockets. [6]

Table 1: Socio-Demographic profile of the HIV sero- reactive patients

Factors	Male (n=76)	Female (n=24)	Total (n=100)
Age group yrs			
0-14	03 (03.95)	02 (08.33)	5 (05)
15-30	22 (28.95)	12 (50.00)	34 (34)
31-49	50 (65.79)	10 (41.67)	60 (60)
> 50	01 (01.31)	00 (00.00)	1 (01)
Marital status			
Married	58 (76.31)	11 (45.83)	69 (69)
Unmarried	14 (18.42)	03 (12.50)	17 (17)*
Divorce	04 (05.26)	00 (00.00)	04 (04)
Widow	00 (00.00)	10 (41.67)	10 (10)
Education			
Illiterate	16 (21.05)	06 (25.00)	22 (22)
Primary	22 (28.95)	09 (37.5)	31 (31)
Secondary	28 (36.84)	07 (29.16)	35 (35)
Higher secondary	07 (9.21)	01 (4.16)	08 (08)
Graduate	03 (3.95)	00 (0.00)	03 (03)
Post graduate	00 (0.00)	01 (4.16)	01 (01)
Migratory Status			
Migrant	48 (63.16)	07 (29.17)	55 (55)
Non migrant	28(36.84)	17 (70.83)	45 (45)

*5% were children

Table 2: Sexual behaviour pattern of HIV positive patients

Sexual behaviour	Male (n=76)	Female (n=24)	Total (n=100)
Married spouse	18 (23.68)	20 (83.34)	38 (38)
Commercial sex worker	36 (47.37)	00 (0.00)	36 (36)
Companion	19 (25.00)	02 (8.33)	21 (21)
No H/o exposure	03 (3.95)	02 (8.33)	05 (5)

Table 3: Number of sexual partner of sero- reactive patients

Sexual partner	Male (n=76)	Female (n=24)	Total (n=100)
One	16 (21.06)	17 (70.84)	33 (33)
Two	27 (35.52)	05 (20.83)	32 (32)
Multiple	30 (39.47)	00 (00.00)	30 (30)
No H/o exposure	03 (3.95)	02 (8.33)	05 (05)

In this study shows 57% patients had extramarital sexual relation with either commercial sex worker or with companion.38% patients had sexual relation with married spouse. In this study 5% children had no exposure of sexual relation.

Table 3 shows only 33% patients had sexual relation with single partner, while 62% had multiple sexual partners. Most of male were polygamy and only 5% female had two sexual partners due to second marriage. In this study 5% children had no exposure of sexual relation.

DISCUSSION

In this study observed 94 % patients were among the sexually active group 15-49 years which is similar to the national level statistics in which NACO has reported that, 89% of the cases were in the age group of 15-44 years. Due to predominant sexual transmission, approximately 90% of AIDS cases in the developed and developing countries are between age of 20-49 years.[8] Similar finding was observed by Umesg.h.Joge in Maharastra. This section of the population is more affected because they are economically productive, sexually more active and the social structure is patriarchal.[12] In present study there were 76% male and 24% female compared to 70.82% & 29.17% respectively in NACO report. [5] A study by Harsh Toshnival in Ahmadabad, Gujarat showed that, 600 HIV/AIDS patients out of them 410 (68.3%) were male and 190 (31.7%) were female in both the groups.[13] In this study observed 69% patients married, 12% unmarried, 4% divorced 10% were widow and 5% children. Study conducted by R.Ganesh et al showed 72% married and 28% unmarried patients.[8] In this study showed 53% patients were either illiterate or primary education. Low literacy may limit access to written, risk reduction information about HIV. Low literacy level leading to low awareness amongst the potential high risk group.[10]

In this study 57% patients had extramarital sexual relation with either commercial sex worker or with companion. For economic reason many person may move to larger cities. Industries may force people to travel from one region to other region of the country to find work. The resulting separation from family and situation may drive them visit to commercial sex worker.[10] In present study only 33% patients had sexual relation with single partner, while 62% had multiple sexual partners. Majority of HIV patient had multiple sex partners. Most of male were polygamy and only 5% female had two sexual partners due to second marriage. In this study 5% children had no exposure of sexual relation.

The probability that person has become infected with HIV by sexual route in general is proportional to the frequency of unprotected sexual behaviour and number of high risk partners with whom person had sexual contact.[10]

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the HIV positive patients are from sexually active group and were more often illiterate, having extra marital relation and multiple sexual partners. Until a vaccine or cure for AIDS is found, the only means at present available is health education to enable people to make life saving choices avoiding multiple sexual relation and use condom.

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