

Poster presentation

Rarity of mixed cryoglobulinemia (MC) in HIV-1 (+) treatment-naïve patients (09/2006–5/07/2008) and long-term follow-up

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from Ninth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection
Glasgow, UK. 9–13 November 2008

Published: 10 November 2008

Journal of the International AIDS Society 2008, **11**(Suppl 1):P85 doi:10.1186/1758-2652-11-S1-P85

This abstract is available from: <http://www.jiasociety.org/content/11/S1/P85>

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Purpose of the study

Study of the natural course of MC in HIV-1 (+) treatment-naïve patients at presentation, who will be followed-up regularly to delineate the time course of appearance and evolution or possible disappearance of MC in association with clinical and laboratory indices, therapy and clinical outcome (development of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma [NHL]).

Methods

Currently diagnosed patients (n = 67, men = 58, women = 9, mean age = 39.17 years, Greeks = 55, foreigners = 12) at their first staging examination were tested for the presence of MC. All participating patients will be followed-up every 4 months.

Summary of results

MC was found at presentation in four, in two in the first, second and third follow-up, and in the fourth and fifth follow-up, in one. Only in one patient, who was MC (+) in the first three tests, was CD8 lymphocytosis diagnosed. In the rest of the MC (+) patients, no evidence of NHL was found so far.

Conclusion

MC has been found to occur in 27% of HIV-1 (+) patients (1996–1997) [1], but its prevalence has declined during the HAART era (12/2003–07/2004) to 7.5% [2]. It is evident in the present study that MC is rare due possibly to

earlier diagnosis and the use of HAART, but the long-term follow-up will clarify the phenomenon and give medical evidence as to whether the presence of MC is an indication for the initiation of treatment.

References

1. Dimitrakopoulos A, et al.: *Ann Intern Med* 1999, **130**:226-230.
2. Kosmas N, et al.: *J Med Virol* 2006, **78**:1257-61.