

ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS occurrence is a major problem facing all countries in the world nowadays. Cutaneous findings are common clinical findings in HIV infected patients. This is a descriptive study of cutaneous findings in HIV infected patients at Pramongkutkulao Hospital Skin Clinic, Bangkok, Thailand. The study was conducted between 16th November 1998 to 8th January 1999. The objectives of this study were, to determine the frequency distribution of various cutaneous findings in HIV infected patients, to describe their various patterns and to study the relationship between cutaneous drug eruptions in HIV infected patients and possible causative agents. Study patients were both male and female HIV infected patients, age >13 years with cutaneous findings. HIV status of patients were determined by GPA and ELISA. For retrospective study, the information from the medical records was extracted, and for prospective study, the patients history was taken and the patients were examined. The patients' demographics, general medical information, presenting symptoms, types of skin findings and laboratory investigations were recorded in designed case record form. In the retrospective study, records of 129 patients who came to Skin Clinic between 1st January 1995 and 13th November 1998 were examined. Their median age was 32 years (range 18-65 years), and male:female was 5.14:1. There were 35 varieties of cutaneous findings recorded. Common cutaneous findings were pruritic papular eruption (PPE) (51.2%), oral candidiasis (21.7%), herpes zoster (10.9%), oral hairy leukoplakia (10%), bacterial infections (10.1%) and drug eruptions (7%). Co-trimoxazole for *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia prevention was the common cause of drug eruption.

In prospective study, 18 patients who came to Skin Clinic during 16th November 1998 to 8th January 1999 were recruited. Their median age was 34years (range 23-51years) and male:female was 2.6:1. A total of 16 cutaneous findings were recorded. Common cutaneous findings were PPE (50%), seborrheic dermatitis (16.7%), oral candidiasis (16.7%), bacterial infections (11.1%), drug eruptions (5.6%). Only one patient came with drug eruption caused by co-trimoxazole. Variation in the pictures of cutaneous findings in our study was not different from other studies. Frequency distribution and pattern of common cutaneous findings were usually consistent with data from Institute of Dermatology, Bangkok, but different from those of Chiang Mai Hospital and foreign countries. Findings from our study were expected to be useful as baseline data for cutaneous findings in HIV infected patients particularly in central part of Thailand.