

ABSTRACT

A descriptive study of cutaneous findings in HIV infected patients at Pramongkutklao 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 must be aged >13 years with cutaneous findings. HIV status of patients were determined by GPA and ELISA.

For the retrospective study, information from existing medical records was extracted, and for prospective study, the patients' history was taken and the patients were examined.

There were 129 patients in the retrospective study which covered the enrollment duration of 3 years and 10.5 months from 1st January 1995 to 13th November 1998. Their median age was 32 years (range 18-65 years).

There were 34 different 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 (10.1%), bacterial infections (10.1%) and drug eruptions (7%). Co-trimoxazole was a common cause of drug eruption. Significant of PPE was more common when CD4+ cells < 200/mm³

In prospective study, 18 patients who came to Skin Clinic during 16th November 1998 to 8th January 1999 were recruited. Their median age was 34 years

(range 23-51 years). 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%) and drug eruptions (5.6%). Only one patient came with drug eruption caused by co-trimoxazole.

Pruritus was a common initial complain in the 2 study groups and the variety of cutaneous findings in our study were generally similar to other studies.