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Spectrum of non-AIDS defining cancers, Indian study

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Introduction & Aim: With the availability of combined antiretroviral therapy and treatment of opportunistic infections there is an increased life expectancy of HIV positive patients and hence an increase in chronic diseases inclusive of cancers is expected. Malignancies account for more than one-third of the causes of death among HIV infected patients. We studied the spectrum of Non AIDS defining cancers among HIV positive cancer cases at a tertiary referral cancer in India.

Material & Methods: We used the gender and age-specific proportions of each cancer site of the year 2002 that was recorded in the Hospital Cancer Registry at Tata Memorial Hospital, to estimate an expected number of various cancer sites among HIV positive cancer patients during the period 2007-2015. The observed number of site specific cancer cases was divided by the expected number to obtain proportional incidence ratio (PIR). An increased PIR means that proportion of cancer for a particular cancer site is more in HIV positive cancer cases compared to that expected from the data of hospital based cancer registry. The standard error of the PIR was estimated to compute 95% CI.

Results: There were 758 patients with HIV related cancers in the study period. Males were predominant (53.8%). 43.66% cases were non AIDS defining cancers (NADC). 51.66% patients were in the age group of 41-60 years. 45.7% patients were known HIV positive at the time of diagnosis of cancer. In males PIR was increased for anal cancer (PIR=4.21, 95%CI 2.21-8.17), penile cancer (PIR=2.66, 95%CI 1.47-4.8) and conjunctival cancer (PIR=4.75, 95%CI 1.19-19.01). Among females the PIR for anal cancer (PIR=3.37, 95% CI 1.27-8.99), Hodgkin's disease (PIR=2.76, 95%CI, 1.32-5.79), conjunctival cancer (PIR=14.27, 95%CI 3.57-57.08) and vulval cancers (PIR=4.58, 95%CI 1.72-12.2) was increased.

Conclusions: Most patients were detected to have HIV at the time of diagnosis of cancer. There were more AIDS defining cancers than Non AIDS defining cancers. The non-AIDS defining cancers seen with a higher proportional incidence ratio among HIV infected patients with cancer are inclusive of anal cancer, penile cancers, conjunctival cancers, Hodgkins disease and vulval cancer. All non AIDS defining cancers which were increased in proportion among the HIV infected patients are infection related cancers.

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