

Lack of Association of Diabetes Mellitus and HCV in HIV Infected Patients

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Background: Noninsulin dependent diabetes mellitus (DM) has been associated with chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infection in patients without HIV. This association is inconclusive in HIV/HCV coinfection. In some recent studies, DM has been linked to HIV treatment adverse effects, increased longevity due to treatment success, while other studies suggest HCV as independent risk factor for development of DM in coinfecting persons.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective, cross-sectional study in our inner city HIV clinic patients, assessing the incidence of DM in HIV/HCV coinfecting versus HIV-infected individuals. We retrieved information regarding traditional risk factors for DM such as age, race, BMI, gender, and combination antiretroviral therapy. The statistical analysis was carried out with student's *t*-test for continuous variable and Fisher's exact test for categorical variables.

Results: Of 922 persons with HIV infection, 440 had HCV coinfection of whom 59 (13.2%) had DM, with 63 (13.1%) of the 482 HIV mono-infected persons having DM. Traditional DM risk factors such as age, race, gender, and BMI were statistically comparable in both coinfecting and mono-infected groups.

Conclusions: Our study did not show any significant association between hepatitis C and prevalence of DM in HCV/HIV coinfecting persons compared with HIV-infected.

Gobuiwang K. Kurusa, MD, has disclosed the following:

- No relevant financial relationships to disclose