

Introduction

HIV-2 infections predominate in the West African region but the presence of the virus has been identified in other parts of the world. 1 In the Dominican Republic, trans population has an elevated prevalence of HIV infection (3.9-6.9%) compared with general population. 2 Not all antiretrovirals developed for HIV-1 treatment are equally effective in HIV-2 infection, and limited data exist on the efficacy of new ARV on HIV-2. 3,4 The objective of this study was to further characterize the presence of HIV-2 in trans woman population living with HIV in the Dominican Republic.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of Transgender population infected with HIV-2

	HIV-2 Population (n=6)	
	n	%
Sexual Preference		
Transsexual	2	33.3%
Bisexual	1	16.7%
Homosexual	1	16.7%
Transgender Women	1	16.7%
Age Group		
18-24	2	33.3%
25-29	1	16.7%
30-34	3	50%
Alcohol consumption		
2-4 drinks/ month	3	50%
2-3 drinks/ week	1	16.7%
4 or more/ week	1	16.7%
Condom Use in the Last Month		
Never	1	16.7%
Sometimes	2	33.3%
Always	3	50%

References

1. S M. HIV - 2 Infections from a Tertiary Care Hospital in India - A Case Report. Journal of Human Virology & Retrovirology 2017;5. doi:10.15406/jhvr.2017.05.00161
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3. Witvrouw M, Pannecouque C, Switzer WM, Folks TM, De Clercq E, Heneine W: Susceptibility of HIV-2, SIV and SHIV to various anti-HIV-1 compounds: implications for treatment and postexposure prophylaxis. Antivir Ther 2004;9:57-65.
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Methods

Serologic analysis to identify HIV-2 antibodies by PCR and Multispot in previously confirmed HIV positive samples of transwoman volunteers. Socio-demographic determinants were linked with serological data and statistical analyses were used to assess risk determinants of HIV-2 infection.

Results

A total of 110 participants were evaluated for the presence of HIV-2 serum antibody. We found the presence of HIV-2 as a co-infection with HIV-1 in 5.45% (n=6) of participants. Single infection with HIV-2 was not found. Geographical origin of participants with confirmed co-infections was located near the border with Haiti. No correlation was found with alcohol consumption and condom use [Table 1]. All positive results were returned and positive cases were enrolled in care for HIV infection in their localities.

Conclusions

This study identified the presence and circulation of HIV-2 in transwoman population in the Dominican Republic. A more systematic screening for HIV-2 should be considered for management, treatment and prevention among high-risk populations, and its implications on new diagnosis and immediate treatment. Further evaluations should be considered to evaluate their progression through the continuum of care.



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