



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

## CLINICAL, CITOMORPHOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR ANALYSIS IN HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES WITH HPV INFECTION

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**INTRODUCTION:** Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most frequent sexually transmitted disease and has great questions for its control. Because the infection can remain latent or subclinical and its natural history is shaped by both immunological mechanisms and behavior patterns, it is necessary to know how the disease develops in individuals and in couples as a unit.

**OBJETIVE:** Establish clinical, cytomorphological and molecular correlation in heterosexual couples with HPV infection attended in Unidad de Infecciones de Transmisión Sexual "Centro Venereológico" of Hospital Universitario de Caracas for a period of 10 months.

**METHOD:** Prospective, descriptive and comparative study based on the collection of clinical data, cytological samples and viral typing of 40 heterosexual couples in which one or both had evidence of HPV infection.

**RESULTS:** Of 40 couples studied, 63% had latent infection, 20% subclinical and 85% clinical, of which 65% corresponded to men. Regarding the cytomorphological changes, only 18% of women and 43% of men were suggestive for HPV. In relation to PCR, the viral genome was detected in 63% of women and in 35% of men. A highly variable clinical disaccordance of 10-51%, cytomorphological of 25% and molecular of 15-25% was documented in the couples studied; only concordance was found in terms of reactive changes in cytologies of both sexes with 88% in women and 90% in men.

**CONCLUSION:** Evaluation of sexual partners of all patients with HPV infection is necessary to understand evolution, response to treatment and prognosis; being useful cervical cytology in women and urethral in males that must be complemented with PCR.

