



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

## HERPES ZOSTER IN A BATCH OF ONE HUNDRED HIV CASES

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**Introduction:** Herpes zoster (HZ) is noted to be associated with Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), causing severe disease, involving multiple dermatomes, dissemination and systemic involvement. The incidence of Herpes zoster is observed to be higher in AIDS cases and in seropositive HIV cases in whom recurrent attacks are common and lesions are more persistent with unusual morphologies and more severe, sometimes living scars behind.

**Objectives:** To assess the frequency, severity and particularities in HZ infection in HIV/AIDS patients

**Material and Methods:** One hundred of HIV/AIDS cases admitted over a period of one months in "Prof Dr Matei Bals" National Institute of Infectious Disease, Bucharest, Romania, were included in this study. The diagnosis of herpes zoster was primarily clinical and sometimes using relevant investigations.

**Results:** There were 39 females and 61 males. Their ages varied from 18 to 74 years, the majority of the cases were in the age group 20-29 years (43 cases). 61/100 cases were in C3 stage of the disease. 12/100 of the patients had HZ, 9 of them being in AIDS stage. Two dermatomes adjacent to each other were involved in 4/12 cases of HZ, all of them in AIDS stage. The thoracic and upper limbs dermatomes were the most frequently involved (8/12 cases). The intense pain was the main complaint among patients. The cure time was longer





as usual, being extended at 21-28 days.

Conclusions: Reactivation of varicella-zoster virus is very common in adults with HIV/AIDS, skin lesions being more deep and covering a bigger surface and also involving more than one dermatome at a time than in non infected patients.

