



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

CUTANEOUS TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV INFECTION

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HIV, the etiological virus for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), is one of the world's most serious public health challenges. Globally approximately 36.9 million people were living with HIV/AIDS in 2017 with the addition of estimated 1.8 million newly infected cases. With the advent of Anti retroviral therapy (ART), AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by more than 51% since the peak in 2004. Concomitant HIV infection has been found to be an important predisposing factor for acquiring severe pulmonary and extrapulmonary forms of tuberculosis (TB). However, the relationship of HIV infection and cutaneous TB is not very clear. Cutaneous TB represents a rare extra-pulmonary form of TB constituting only 1-2 % of extra-pulmonary form. The clinical manifestation of cutaneous TB is pleomorphic. It includes tubercular ulcers, PNT and disseminated miliary forms that may be more extensive and severe in intensity in HIV positive patients. Most of the published literature from all over the world including India, doesn't show a significant impact of HIV on the incidence, clinical type and extent of cutaneous TB. I will discuss my > 20 years of experience of cutaneous TB with respect to HIV epidemic.

