HIV Subtypes

Prevalence of different HIV-1 subtypes in an urban clinic in Madrid

J C Martin, A Holguín, V Soriano

Concern about the implications of the growing proportion of circulating HIV variants in Western Europe and North America has been increasing over the past few years. Diagnostic procedures including viral load determinations and drug resistance testing may either fail or not be reliable when specimens from subjects carrying non-B subtypes are examined. Moreover, the efficacy of different antiretroviral compounds against non-B HIV-1 subtypes are examined. When specimens from subjects carrying non-B subtypes were absent in all natives belonging to the control group as well as in all 14 with unexplained CD4 falls.

The results of this study suggest that the prevalence of infection with HIV-1 non-B subtypes among HIV infected people in Madrid is low (estimated overall prevalence 3%). However, up to 71.4% of African immigrants carry non-B viruses. Therefore, HIV subtyping should be requested from all HIV infected African immigrants, and testing might be recommended for natives admitting having had risky behaviour overseas.

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www.sextransinf.com/cgi/content/full/78/1/e1

Table 1 Main epidemiological features of the study population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk group</th>
<th>At risk for infection with non-B subtypes</th>
<th>No risk</th>
<th>Non-Africans</th>
<th>Africans</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male)</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age (years) (SD)</td>
<td>38 (7)</td>
<td>40 (6)</td>
<td>37 (6)</td>
<td>38 (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injecting drug users</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuals</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heterosexuals</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfusion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-B subtypes</td>
<td>0/145</td>
<td>7 (15.5%)</td>
<td>20 (71.4%)</td>
<td>27 (37%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES

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