

Intestinal parasitic infections in Thai HIV-infected patients with different immunity status

ABSTRACT

Therefore, opportunistic intestinal parasite infection should be suspected in any HIV infected patient with advanced disease presenting with diarrhea. The importance of tropical epidemic non-opportunistic intestinal parasite infections among HIV-infected patients should not be neglected.

INTRODUCTION

Background Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, a worldwide infection, is a serious problem in the present day. A high rate of infection is found in many regions of the world, including the Southeast Asia. In Thailand, a tropical country in Southeast Asia, HIV infection is a major problem, like in other regional countries. It has been estimated that a million people are infected with HIV infection in Thailand. And it also the possibly higher undetected HIV infection in the community. One of the major health problems among HIV seropositive patients is superimposed infection due to the defect of immunity. Furthermore, intestinal parasite infection, which is also one of the basic health problems in tropical region, is common in these patients. In this study, a cross sectional study to document the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infection in Thai HIV-infected patients with different immune status was performed.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that in Thai HIV-infected patients, both opportunistic and non-opportunistic intestinal parasite infections are still highly prevalent. In the management of HIV-infected patients in Thailand with or without diarrhea symptom, stool examination is still a useful investigation. Therefore, as shown in previous reports, opportunistic intestinal parasite infection should be suspected in any HIV-infected patient with low immunity presenting with diarrhea. The importance of tropical epidemic non-opportunistic intestinal parasite infections should not be neglected.