HIV-AIDS

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January 17, 2017

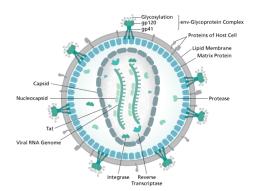


Introduction

- HIV-AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- First described in 1981.
- HIV originated from cross species infection by simian viruses in Africa.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- HIV is a retrovirus.
- Member of the genus *Lentivirus*.
- Two distinct types, HIV-1 and HIV-2, with more than 50% sequence divergence.
- HIV-1 has 3 subtypes; HIV-2 has 5 subtypes.





Symptoms

Nonspecific symptoms during acute HIV infection

fatigue, rash, headache, nausea and night sweats.

Prodromal stage

chronic diarrhoea, fatigue, malaise, weight loss, fever, shortness of breath, hairy leukoplakia and lymphadenopathy.

AIDS

Additional opportunistic infections s.a tuberculosis, hepatitis C, Candida infections etc. eventually leading to death.

Pathogenesis

Typical course of untreated HIV spans about 10 years.

- 1 Primary Infection.
- 2 Dissemination to lymphoid organs.
- 3 Clinical latency.
- 4 Elevated HIV expression.
- 5 Clinical disease.
- 6 Death due to secondary, usually opportunistic infections.

Pathogenesis

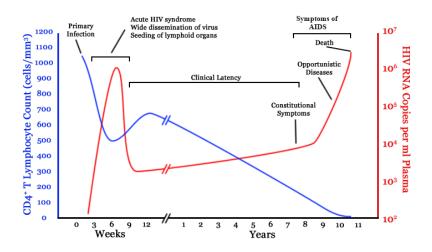
Primary infection

- Mucosal infection leads to viremia in 4 to 11 days.
- Viremia is detectable for 8-12 weeks, and virus spreads to lymphoid organs.
- Number of CD4 T-cells drops significantly.

Immune response

- Immune response kicks in between 1 week to 3 months of infection.
- Plasma viremia drops while CD4 cell numbers rebound.
- HIV infected cells persist in lymph nodes.

HIV Time Course



Diagnosis

Isolation of virus

- Cultured from lymphocytes in peripheral blood.
- Higher titres of virus in blood cells and plasma observed in AIDS.

Serological diagnosis

- Enzyme linked Immunoassay (EIA)
- Agglutination assay
- Immunodot assay

Detection of viral nucleic acid or antigens

- RT-PCR
- DNA PCR
- bDNA assay

Transmission

High titers of HIV are found in blood and semen.

Transmitted through:

- Unprotected sexual contact (homosexual or heterosexual).
- Mother to babies.
 - 1. *in utero* 2. during birth 3. breast feeding
- Re-use of contaminated needles
 - + Bad medical practice + Intravenous drug use
- Transfusion/transplantation of infected blood or tissue.
- Sharing of personal implements such as razors or toothbrushes.

Not transmitted through:

common exposures s.a. coughing, sneezing, sharing meals, casual touch *etc.*

Treatment

Antiviral drugs

- Reverse transcriptase inhibitors
- Viral protease inhibitors
- Fusion inhibitors
- Integrase inhibitors

HAART: Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy

Treatment with a combination of antiretroviral drugs.

HIV infection is now a chronic, treatable disease.

Treatment has to continued for life.

Secondary Infections

Bacterial	Fungal	Protozoa	Viral
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	Candida albicans	Cryptosporidium	Hepatitis B
Salmonella sp.	Cryptococcus neoformans	Toxoplasma gondii	Herpes simplex
Listeria monocytogenes	Pneumocystis jiroveci		Hepatitis C

Prophylaxis

No HIV vaccine available

- No vaccine candidates have proven effective.
- High mutation rate of HIV leads to very high antigenic variability.
- Lack of suitable animal models.

HIV-AIDS prevention

- Use a condom during sexual intercourse.
- Never share unsterile needles or syringes.
- Never share personal instruments such as toothbrushes and razors.
- HIV positive women should avoid getting pregnant.
- HIV positive women should avoid breast feeding of infants.



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