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Prevalence and Determinants of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Infection and Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN), among Women Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Mumbai, India

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Background: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-related immunosuppression predisposes co-infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV). India shares 25% of global burden of cervical cancer and a large burden of HIV-infected women with good longevity due to improved access to antiretroviral therapy. The current study estimates the prevalence of HPV and the risk of Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN) among HIV positive women in Mumbai, India.

Methods: Retrospective analysis was undertaken for 291 HIV positive women attending cervical cancer screening services in a tertiary centre in Mumbai. All underwent simultaneous screening with Visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA), Pap cytology and HPV DNA testing followed by colposcopy and histopathology. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was conducted to determine independent predictors for HPV infection and CIN.

Results: Screen positivity rate for cervical cancer screening by VIA, Pap cytology and high-risk HPV DNA was 36.1%, 5.8% and 32.3% respectively. Histopathology confirmed prevalence of 7.6% CIN II and above lesions in HIV positive women. Women over 35 years [$p=0.045$], unemployed housewives [$p=0.003$], multiple pregnancies [$p=0.023$] and young age at marriage [$p=0.017$] were more likely to have HPV infection. Again single or separated women [$p=0.009$] and young age at marriage [$p=0.010$] were found to be independent predictors for prevalence of any grade of CIN lesion.

Conclusions: The prevalence of HPV infection and CIN are significantly higher in the HIV-positive women in Mumbai, India. There is urgent need to integrate and provide cervical cancer screening within STD/HIV testing and counselling centers which is currently nonexistent within the country.

Biography:

Dr. Sharmila A Pimple, M.D, is Professor in the Department of Preventive Oncology at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Dr. Pimple did her medical schooling and post graduation in Community Medicine at Grant Medical College, Mumbai University and leads the WHO Collaborating Centre for Cancer Prevention, Screening & Early Detection, WHO CC IND-59 [SEARO]. Dr. Pimple has successfully undertaken numerous research projects and International collaborative research trials in the capacity of Principal Investigator for evaluating various low cost technologies for cervical and oral cancer screening, including HPV Vaccine trials. She has played a prominent role in Capacity building, planning and implementing Tobacco Control and Tobacco cessation interventions in Hospital and workplace settings including National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) and Oral Health Program (ORHP) of Government of India.

Dr. Pimple has contributed on the Technical Working and Advisory Group for the Development of evidence based Standard Protocols for Screening of Breast, Cervical and Oral Cancers in India, has publications in National and International Journals to her credit.