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LYMPH NODE BIOPSY IN HIV PATIENTS AT RIO DE JANEIRO (BRASIL)- A SIX YEAR STUDY OF 70 CASES (1985 - 1990).

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Objective: Study the histological findings correlating these with the clinical and laboratory data.

Methods: All lymph nodes biopsies (70) from patients (64) with serum antibodies to HIV were subject of a histopathological and clinical study, during the period from 1985 to 1990, at University Hospital (UFRJ). All the sections were stained with H&E, PAS, Ziehl-Nielsen and Grocott's methanamine silver. The patients were classified according to CDC 1987.

Results: The histological findings were divided in there different groups. 1) Lymphadenopathy-33 cases; 2) Opportunistic infections-23 cases; 3) Neoplasias-14 cases. In the first group, three histological patterns predominated and were defined as: follicular hyperplasia (stage I)-19 cases; mixed (stage II)-3 cases; and follicular involution or depletion (stage III)-7 cases. All the 9 cases with clinical diagnosis of persistent generalized lymphadenopathy were morphologically staged as I. The majority of patients with AIDS were staged as III. Four in six patients with consecutive biopsy showed progressive morphological alterations. Tuberculosis was the most common infection with a total of 22 cases. Fourteen confirmed by histological sections and culture, 5 only by histological sections (culture was not performed) and 3 only by culture. The neoplasias revealed: non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 5, Hodgkin's disease in 5 and Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) in 4 patients

Conclusions: 1) Lymph node morphological findings seen to be useful prediction of outcome in HIV patients with generalized lymphadenopathy. 2) Tuberculosis lymphadenitis was by far the most common infection in HIV patients.