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ISOLATION OF MYCOBACTERIA FROM THE FAECES OF AIDS PATIENTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS.

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Objective: 1-determine the frequency of pathogenic Mycobacteria in the faeces of patients with AIDS in ECH. 2. identify the variables associated with a positive mycobacteria stool examination. Methods: From 03/1990 to 11/1992, 80 consecutive AIDS(CDC-1987) patients had serial stool examinations for mycobacteria using fast acid smears (AFS) and culture. Results: 28(35%) had the final diagnosis of tuberculosis. Mean age was 38, 24(85%) men. 11(39.2%) had mycobacteria isolated from stool and AFS were + in 8 (28%) Group-G1. 17(21%) did not have mycobacteria on stool (Group 2(G2)). Diarrhea was not a common feature in both groups. Nearly all patients had fever. (55%) had abnormal chest films(no cavitation, diffuse pattern). 4/5(80%) in G1 and 12(70%) (no cavitation, diffuse pattern). 6/11(55%) (p=NS) these were 5/6(83%) positive sputum culture in G1 and 3/4(21%) in G2 (p< 0-01) disseminated TB was present in 8/11(72%) of G1 and 10/17(59%) of G2 (p=NS). More than two stool examinations was associated to positive stool results in TB confirmed patients (p<0.05). **Comments:** Mycobacteria are isolated frequently in the faeces of patients with AIDS usually in presence of disseminated disease. Although the role of mycobacteria in causing enteric disease had not been established, the strong relation with sputum positivity support the idea that swallowing sputum may be the most probable cause of mycobacteria stool elimination.