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MANIFESTATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS IN HIV INFECTED PATIENTS IN RIO DE JANEIRO-BRAZIL

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Objective: To study the clinical manifestations, response to treatment and survival of tuberculosis in a cohort of HIV infected patients.

Methods: Charts of 130 HIV patients with tuberculosis followed at the Evandro Chagas Hospital (HEC) from 1986 to 1994 were reviewed.

Results: Tuberculosis occurred in 43,5% of AIDS patients followed at hec at that period, and was the aids defining disease in 56.9% of the patients. The mean age was 35 years, the male/female rate was 14:1, and the most frequent risk factor was homo/bisexuality. The diagnosis was confirmed by culture in 55,5% of the cases. Empiric treatment was initiated in only 17,7% of cases. The disseminated form was the most frequent 88(67.7%). In 64% the chest radiograph was normal, and the typical radiological pattern was found in only 3.2%, and atypical in 32.8%. In 22.7% of the patients with normal X-ray, *M. tuberculosis* was isolated. Response to treatment was considered good in 78,8% of the cases. Tuberculosis was the cause of death as the cause of death in 23,6% and autopsy was performed in 28.5%. The mean survival was 16.9 months, and it was longer among patients with localized forms. There was a significant association between survival and the use of anti-retroviral therapy and PCP prophylaxis.

Conclusion: Tuberculosis is a very common disease in the HIV infected patients in Brazil, it can occur in any stage of the immunodeficiency and must be diagnosed because usually patients respond well to treatment.

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