Anal cancer screening practices in an HIV positive MSM population: a single center, 10 year follow-up study

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Background

- In Mexico, the HIV epidemic is mainly concentrated in men who have sex with men (MSM)1
- Anal cancer (AC) is associated with human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and is typically preceded by precursor lesions2
- AC is increasingly common among HIV+ individuals, even after the advent of antiretroviral therapy3
- HIV’s role in anal cancer is not completely understood, but we know it facilitates HPV’s entrance, persistence and oncogenic potential4
- Anal cancer screening tests are not funded by the national HIV program

Objective: to describe anal cancer screening tests frequencies and results in Mexican HIV+ MSM

Methods

Study design:
- Retrospective analysis of electronic records
- 10 year follow-up
- In 2013 we implemented a questionnaire as a reminding tool for screening of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Baseline HPV testing performed at Instituto Nacional de Cancerología (INCAN)

Study population:
- HIV+ MSM adults attending an HIV clinic in Mexico City
- Screened in 2008 for anal HPV by INNO-LiPA®

Outcomes:
- Frequencies, timing of performance (prior to, or after year 2013) and results of anal cytologies and anal biopsies

Results

2008 2013

324 patients screened for HPV

HPV+ → 277 (85%)

HR-HPV (16 / 18 serotypes) Non HR-HPV (any other serotype)

94 (33%) 183 (67%)

Had at least 1 anal cytology performed in 10 years

57% 65%

Anal cytologies results N:372

153 (41%) 173 (46%) 30 (8%) 14 (4%) 5% 2 (<1%)

Benign LGL Inadequate ASC-US HGL

Anal biopsies results N:31

16 (51%) 7 (23%) 3 (10%) 3 (10%) 5 (16%)

Benign GI/GII-AIN G3-AIN In situ carcinoma

Patients: 211 LGL: 124 HGL: 124

2018 99% of anal cytologies were performed in or after year 2013

281 (87%) retained in HIV care

Discussion

- HPV prevalence in HIV+ MSM population in Mexico is similar to other reports7
- Anal screening practices were suboptimal, regardless of HPV serotype at baseline screening
- A simple STDs questionnaire implemented in 2013 significantly increased the frequency of screening tests

Outcomes:
- There is a need for local guidelines for anal cancer screening, including HPV testing, in HIV+ MSM in Mexico
- Lack of funding of screening by government programs may contribute to suboptimal testing in Mexico

References:

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