Abstract

Prospective study of anogenital warts, HIV infection and immunosuppression in a cohort of high-risk women in Burkina Faso


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Background

Prospective data on the epidemiology of anogenital warts (GW) in relation to HIV are lacking in Africa.

Methods

765 high-risk women were followed at 4 monthly intervals for 27 months in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Associations of HIV-1 status (including CD4 count) and other potential risk factors with GW were assessed both at enrolment and throughout follow-up. We used Poisson regression and survival analysis techniques to identify factors associated with prevalent and incident GW.

Results

At enrolment, GW prevalence was 1.6% (8/492) among HIV seronegative, and 6.6% (18/273) among HIV-1 seropositive women (p<0.001). There were no cases of prevalent GW among women taking HAART (n=26). Over time, 42 women (5.5%) experienced at least one episode of incident GW. GW incidence was 1.0 per 100 person-years (py) among HIV negative women, 8.3 per 100 py among HIV-1 positive women with a CD4 count >200 cells/µl and 15.6 per 100 py among HIV-1 positive women with a CD4 count ≤200 cells/µl (Ptrend<0.001). Incidence was 3.6 per 100 py for women on HAART.

At baseline, prevalent GW were strongly associated with smoking (adjusted OR 4.78, 95% CI 1.53–14.97; p=0.007). During follow-up, being HIV-1 infected with baseline CD4 ≤200 cells/µl was the factor most strongly associated with incident GW (adjusted incidence rate ratio [aIRR] 11.82, 95% CI 3.74–37.38; p<0.001). Concurrent bacterial vaginosis (aIRR 2.38, 95% CI 1.35–4.19; p=0.003), and genital ulceration (aIRR 3.34, 95% CI 1.49–7.49; p=0.003) were also associated with incident GW. There was weak evidence that concurrent HAART was protective against incident GW (aIRR 0.50, 95% CI 0.19–1.29; p=0.15).

Conclusions

Genital warts occur much more frequently among HIV-1 infected women, particularly those with lower CD4 counts. HAART may be protective against GW.