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### **WOMEN AND HIV INFECTION IN RIO DE JANEIRO - BRAZIL**

Grinsztejn, B, Veloso, V.G., Gonzales, D., Galhardo, M.C.G., Azambuja, Rodrigo, Do Valle, F., Guimarães, M.R. Evandro Chagas Hospital/loc/Fiocruz

The epidemiology of HIV in Brazil has changed dramatically in the past decade, primarily as a function of an increase in heterosexual HIV transmission. Given this shift in epidemiology, it is critical to study the presentation of HIV in our female population.

Objective: To describe the characteristics of HIV infected women followed at the Evandro Chagas Hospital (HEC) from 1990-1995.

Methods: Retrospective study reviewing charts of all women followed at the HEC from 1990 to 1995. Cdc-87 was used to classify the patients' HIV status.

Results: A total of 142 women were followed during this period. The majority of them were registered at the HEC after 1992 115 (81%). Mean age was 31, risk factors associated with HIV infection were an HIV positive partner in 119 (83.8%), HIV positive iv drug user partner 17 (12%), blood transfusion in 6 (4.2%). The majority of them were from outlying poor areas of Rio De Janeiro 127 (90.7%). Forty six (32.8%) have 3 or more children. At the initial visit 103 (72.6%) were classified as group ii/giii, 28 (19%) as iv, and 10 (7%) as AIDS. To date 19 (14.7%) have died, and 13 (9%) have been lost to follow-up. The most frequent O.I were candidiasis 55 (38.7%), bacterial respiratory infection 20 (14%), tuberculosis 19 (13.4%), P.C.P 11 (7.7%), CMV 8 (5%), and toxoplasmosis 5 (3%). Only 34 (24%) received gynecological examinations. Six (18.8%) had abnormal pap smears, with HPV being found in 2 (33%) of those that were abnormal. AZT use was reported in 78 (55.3%) and P.C.P prophylaxis in 74 (52%).

Conclusion: According to Brazilian AIDS program data, we could observe an increase in HIV infected women was observed over the last 4 years. In our cohort the most frequent risk factor was an HIV partner. After candidiasis, bacterial respiratory infection was the most common manifestation associated. The small number of gynecological exams performed in this group indicates the need for improvement in the quality of overall care of HIV infected female patients and the need to address the HIV-related issues specific to women.

Rodrigo Azambuja Fax: 55 21 246 0493 Rua: Alzira Cortes, 5/308, Rio De Janeiro - Brazil. Cep 22260-050