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DISSEMINATED MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM INFECTION AMONG AIDS PATIENTS IN RJ-BRAZIL

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Objective: To determine the frequency of mycobacteremia in a sample of 50 AIDS patients.

Methods: A prospective, multicentric study in order to determine the frequency of mycobacteremia in a sample of 50 AIDS patients was conducted in 3 infectious diseases services in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Hemocultures for mycobacteria were collected and processed by 2 methods: lysis-centrifugation and direct inoculation in a biphasic media. Patients were selected by the presence of the following inclusion criteria: fever, hepatosplenomegaly and or a lung infiltrate plus one of the following: anemia, leucopenia and increased levels of alkaline phosphatase.

Results: Mycobacteremia was present in 60% of the cases. *M. tuberculosis* was the most frequently found etiologic agent (38%) and *M. avium* complex was isolated in 22% of the cases. mean cd4 counts were 16 cells/mm³ (sd 18.92) for the patients with positive hemocultures for MAC and 71 cells/mm³ (sd 102) for the patients with positive hemocultures for *M. tuberculosis*.

Conclusion: We concluded that, in Brazil, disseminated disease caused by MAC (DMAC) should be considered in the differential diagnosis of AIDS patients in advanced stage of immunodeficiency and that positive hemocultures for tuberculosis are associated with more severe forms of tuberculosis, indicating disseminated disease.

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