Hearing disorders in HIV positive adult patients not on anti-retroviral drugs at Kenyatta National Hospital

Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To determine the prevalence and type of hearing disorders in HIV positive patients not on anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) and correlate this with the world health Organization (WHO) stage of HIV disease and CD4 positive cell counts. DESIGN: Case control study. SETTING: Comprehensive Care Clinic (CCC) and Voluntary Counseling and testing centre at Kenyatta National Hospital. SUBJECTS: One hundred and ninety four HIV positive patients attending CCC and 124 HIV negative subjects recruited from voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centre. RESULTS: Hearing loss (HL) was present in 33.5% of HIV positive compared to 8.1% in negative subjects. No gender bias in HL Sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL) was the most common and the frequencies most ‘affected were four-anti eight kHz CONCLUSION: Hearing loss is more prevalent in HIV positive individuals not on anti-retroviral drugs than negative normal subjects. Low CD4 cell count and advanced HIV diseases were associated with increased chance of having a hearing loss. Otological care should be part of the comprehensive care of HIV positive patients.