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First report of occult hepatitis B infection among ART naive HIV seropositive individuals in Maputo, Mozambique

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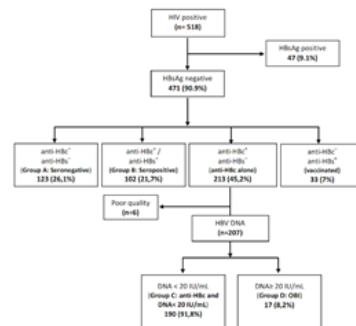
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Mozambique has no study about the prevalence and the clinical impact of occult B infection and has the eighth highest HIV prevalence in the world. HIV is one of the most recognized risk factor for occult hepatitis B. The aim of this study was to investigate the frequency and clinical and laboratory characteristics of OBI in ART naive HIV infected patients. We conducted a cross-sectional study in two health facilities within Maputo city, between June and October 2012. A questionnaire was used to obtain demographics and clinical data. Serological studies was done in blood samples, such as, HBV surface antigen (HBsAg), antibodies against HBV surface antigen (anti-HBs) and antibodies against core antigen (anti-HBc), as well as a quantification of HBV DNA using real time PCR.

We find that from the 518 ART-naive HIV-positive subjects, 90.9% (471/518) were HBsAg negative. Among HBsAg negative, 45.2% (213/471) had isolated anti-HBc antibodies, and the frequency of OBI among patients with anti-HBc alone was 8.3% (17/206) (fig 1). A total of 11.8% of patients with OBI presented elevated HBV DNA level. Frequency of individuals with APRI score > 2 and FIB-4 score > 3.25 was higher in patients with OBI as compared not exposed, immune and anti-HBc alone patients. OBI was not correlated either with CD4+ T cells count or transaminases levels.

We conclude that OBI is prevalent among HIV patients in Mozambique, and that the screen testes are not sufficient to diagnose this patient.



Flowchart of recruitment and testing of study participants anti-HBc – antibody against HBV core antigen; anti-HBs- – antibody against HBV surface antigen; DNA – desoxirribonucleic acid; HBsAg- HBV surface antigen; HBV– hepatitis B virus; HIV– human immunodeficiency virus; OBI- occult hepatitis B virus infection

Speaker Biography

Awa Carimo is an internist working in Maputo Central Hospital, Mozambique, she has completed her Master thesis from Faculty of Medicine Lisbon University. She has published 3 papers in reputed journals. She works in Nephrology department from 2011 as a dialysis supervisor. She is an assistant teacher in Medicine Faculty, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane as well as in Instituto Superior de Ciências e Tecnologia de Mozambique.

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