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CORRELATION OF PATIENT CLINICAL DATA WITH LABORATORY TEST RESULT IN THE FULFILMENT OF THE WHO CLINICAL CASE DEFINITION OF AIDS WHERE DIAGNOSTIC RESOURCES ARE LIMITED

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the shortcomings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) clinical case definition for AIDS in places where diagnostic resources are limited. Sera that was received from 947 patients in the month of January, 1996 was evaluated for the presence of HIV antibodies by employing the Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) method. Two major symptoms together with one minor symptom were correlated to the HIV antibody test result for the development of AIDS. A 100% correlation was obtained when both diarrhoea and fever persisting for more than one month with either candidiasis or herpes zoster were related to the HIV antibody test of patients presenting with these symptoms, for the development of AIDS. From the whole study 72% of the patients were HIV antibody positive. Also in this study it was established that the 20-40 age group is the most infected by the HIV ; in the 21-30 age group more females are infected than males while in the 31-40 age group more males are infected than females.

In conclusion, the WHO clinical case definition for AIDS has its own shortcomings, hence for it to be conclusively used there is need to supplement it with a blood test (e.g HIV antibody test)