Epidemiological aspects of tropical endemic limbo-conjunctivitis (TELC) at the general referral provincial hospital of Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo


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Background: To determine the epidemiological aspects of tropical endemic limbo-conjunctivitis (telc) as well as the clinical characteristics in the children of 0-15 years old.

Methods & Materials: A retrospective and descriptive study was carried out by the service of Ophthalmology of the General Referral Provincial Hospital of Bukavu, South Kivu Province, in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This may concern 172 children, from January 2007 to December 2011.

Results: On a total of 1168 children consulted, 172 had a diagnosis of telc 14.7% frequent. The median age of the patients with telc was 6 years. The age bracket of less than 5 years was touched with 40.1% of case. The male sex was represented by (57%) of children. The pruritis was the most frequent complaint with 97.1% followed-up with friction (94.8%) and brownish coloring (89.5%). The ocular attack was bilateral with (95.9%). The palpebral form was observed in 40.7% of the cases and the stage of evolution was marked respectively by stage II (37.8%) and I (30.8%), the stage IV was represented in 11% of the cases, a particularity for his stage.

Conclusion: This study, first of the kind in South–Kivu province, in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, related to the section from 0 to 15 years old. This study showed that men were the most reached against 57% for women. The palpebral form (40.7%) was the most frequent and the majority of children had stage II (37.8%) with a particularity for stage IV (11%), a frequency higher found in Democratic Republic of Congo and in Africa. Telc constitutes in our areas a significant factor of blindness occurrence; it’s an invalidating ocular disease if it is not treated on time.

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Viral load and dendritic cells from vertically HIV-infected children and adolescents


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Background: Defects of plasmacytoid (pDC) and myeloid (mDC) dendritic cells (DC) number and function occur in vertical HIV infection. Monocyte-derived DC (MDDC) pulsed with inactivated virus may be a promising strategy for the therapeutic vaccines.

Methods & Materials: In this cross-sectional study, 38 HIV-1-infected patients with viral load (VL) <50 RNA copies/mL (aviremic patients, AP, median age: 13.6 years), 20 with VL >1000 RNA copies/mL (viremic patients, VP, median age: 12.0 years), all under antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 30 healthy controls (median age: 15.9 years) had their DC characterized in peripheral blood mononuclear cells by flow cytometry with Anti-CD11c, Anti-CD14, Anti-BDCA-2 and Anti–HLA-DR antibodies. Seventeen patients and eight controls had their monocytes isolated by CD14+ magnetic beads, differentiated into MDDC using GM–CSF and IL–4 for six days, pulsed with aldrithiol-inactivated heterologous HIV-1 during two hours and incubated with GM–CSF, IL–4, IL–1β, TNFα and