

Prevalence And Predictors Of Precancerous Cervical Lesions Among Hiv Positive Women In Jos, North Central, Nigeria

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Introduction- Women living with HIV are at higher risk for cervical cancer. Various risk factors have been linked to the occurrence of precancerous cervical lesions. Pap smear is an effective screening tool for the early detection of these precancerous cervical lesions.

Aim- To determine the prevalence of and predictors for precancerous lesions among HIV positive women in Jos

Methods- A descriptive cross-sectional design was employed for the study. Two teaching hospitals were used for the study. A total of 326 HIV positive (18 years and above) women had pap smear done. A multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to determine predictors of precancerous cervical lesions. Level of significance was set at a P value of $\alpha < 0.05$

Results—Precancerous cervical lesions was present in 40(12.2%) women out of the 326 participants. 19(5.8%) had low grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (LSIL), 13(4.0%) had high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL), 3(0.9%) had high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions suspect for invasion (HSIL Susp for Inv). 4(1.2%) had atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS), while 1(0.3%) had ASCUS-H. The multivariate logistic regression model showed that Age group (OR:1.7, 95% CI: 0.3-9.5, $p < 0.004$) and parity (OR:3.4, 95% CI: 1.3-9.5, 0.043) were independent predictors of precancerous cervical lesions among HIV positive women.

Conclusion- Precancerous cervical lesions were prevalent among HIV positive women in Jos, Nigeria; strict adherence to the existing protocol of routine Pap smear screening and strengthening family planning services is strongly recommended.