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Mechanism of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

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The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a lentivirus (a subgroup of retrovirus) that causes HIV infection 1 and over time acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The HIV of lethal viruses is severely specialized immune system infecting virus especially infecting the T- helper cells (CD4+ T cells). Where it works by break downing the defenses of the infected person because the T-helper cells serve as the beating heart of the immune system by helping the immune system to deliver signals to the rest of the immune cells and allow life-threatening opportunistic infections and cancers to thrive. Two types of HIV have been characterized: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV-1 is the virus that was initially discovered and termed both LAV and HTLV-III. It is more virulent, more infective and it is the cause of most HIV infections globally. The estimated number of people infected with the disease since the beginning of the epidemic is almost 78 million people who have been infected with the HIV virus and about 39 million people who have died of HIV. The genetic material of this virus is positive singlestranded RNA (+ssRNA) and infection occurs after entry of the virus into the body. Then the virus attacks the T- helper cells through receptor association, GP 120 which exists on the surface of the virus and receptor called CD4 exists on the surface of the T-helper cells. After the virus linked to the receptor of the CCR5 on the surface of the T-helper cells, the other receptor links to the receptor of the GP120 called GP41 making holes in the plasma membrane through which the virus enters into the infected cell. After the entry, virus removes its outer shell, takes new cover of the host cell, and converts the genetic material from RNA to DNA through a unique enzyme called reverse transcriptase and injects its genetic material into the genetic material of T-helper cells. According to my point of view, the virus here is more intelligent; through infecting T-helper cells it cuts the link between the macrophage and B-cells by eliminating T- cells.

Biography

Ahmed Ali Hussein has completed his Master's degree in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Qadisiyah - College of Science. He has published number of research papers in local and international journals. He has a book about Immunology titled "Medical Immunology". He was assigned to supervise many undergraduate and graduate students for obtaining a Diploma degree.

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Accepted Abstracts



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Cryptosporidiosis in cattle and sheep in Duhok Governorate, Kurdistan region, Iraq

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The current study is the first one that is performed to detect the oocysts of *Cryptosporidium* in animals in ■ Duhok Governorate, Kurdistan region of Iraq by examining 348 fecal samples of cattle and 280 fecal samples of sheep using modified Ziehl Neelsen method (MZNM). All fecal samples were concentrated using formalinether method before staining. A total of 233 fecal samples were randomly chosen to detect Cryptosporidium by enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and 129 fecal samples from cattle and 104 fecal samples from sheep were taken. By MZNM, the prevalence of Cryptosporidium oocysts was 26.15% in cattle and 11.07% in sheep. The prevalence rates were 28.99% and 24.29% in diarrheic and nondiarrheic groups of cattle, respectively. While in sheep the prevalence rates were 23.26% and 5.67% in diarrheic and non-diarrheic groups, respectively. Out of the 129 fecal samples of cattle of which 31(24.03%), 37 (28.68%) and 57(44.19%) were positive by MZNM, ELISA and PCR, respectively. A total of 104 fecal samples of sheep of which 23 (22.12%), 24 (23.08%) and 45 (43.27%) were positive by MZNM, ELISA and PCR, respectively. The highest prevalence rate by MZNM, ELISA and PCR was among the age group 1-2 months in diarrheic cattle and sheep, while in non-diarrheic cattle and sheep it was among 3-6 months age group. This study indicated that infection was companied with diarrhea in both the animal species and it decreased with increasing of age, as well as the asymptomatic infection was common. In present study, the results of sequences analyzing of PCR products showed identical to the Cryptosporidium sequences in the GenBank. In this study, ELISA was more sensitive and specific than MZNM which were 82.5% and 90.91% respectively. Also PCR was more sensitive and specific than MZNM which were 97.5% and 73.82% respectively.

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Evaluation of performance of Deki reader of rapid diagnostic test for malaria diagnosis in rural military health facilities in Tanzania

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Introduction: Although Microscopy is a standard diagnostic tool for malaria, is used at minimal with unreliable results because of unavailability of laboratory facilities in poor resource countries. Malaria Rapid diagnostic Tests (mRDTs) are currently advocated and used as adjunct to microscopy. However, at very low parasitaemia (<100 p/µl) the test line on mRDT is very weak to be seen and consequently affecting interpretation of test results and patient care. Fio Corporation in Canada has developed a ruggedized portable, universal Deki Reader of mRDTs (DR of mRDTs) to perform automatic analysis and interpretation of RDT. However, before deploying the device for medical care in Tanzania, we evaluated its performance against microscopy as a reference test and compared to human interpretation of mRDTs.

Methods: The cross-sectional study employed 1,293 outpatients with fever who were recruited and tested for malaria using mRDT and microscopy techniques. Finger prick blood was prepared on mRDTs according to manufacturer's instructions and test performed as guided DR of mRDT. Thick and thin blood smears were also prepared as guided by standardized template, stained and read by specialized Microscopist. We compared the performance of DR of mRDT to human interpretation of mRDT against microscopy as gold standard

Results: Positivity rates by mRDT were 59.9% (775/1293) and 60.1% (777/1293) as interpreted by Human and DR respectively; parasitaemia prevalence by microscopy as reference test was 48.4% (626/1293). The sensitivity of mRDTs interpreted by DR was 94.1% and that of manual interpretation was 93.9%. The specificity of DR of mRDT was 71.8% and that of human was 72.0 %. Positive Predictive Value (PPV) of mRDT by DR and human was 75.8% and 75.4% respectively. The negative predictive value (NPV) of mRDT by DR was 92.8% and by human was 92.4%. There was no significance difference in sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV and accuracy of mRDT interpreted by DR and that of human interpretation

Conclusion: The performance of DR in interpreting mRDTs was found to be similar to human manual interpretation. There is a need to conduct more evaluations of performance of the device in different epidemiological settings and by using other type of mRDT assays for malaria diagnosis before validating its use in Tanzania.

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Sero-prevalence and sociological indices of HIV among the pregnant women attending ante natal in a secondary health facility

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A research to assess the sero-prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among pregnant women attending ante-natal clinic at St. Luke Hospital, Anua-Offot, Uyo was carried out using standard serological methods. A total of one hundred and eighty-four (184) pregnant women were screened and 37 (20.1%) of them were HIV-positive. The ages of all the women ranged from 17-44 years; out of which the age group 35-39 years had the highest prevalence (41.2%) of HIV positive followed by 25-29 years (24.4%) while <20 years and ≥40 years had none. Married pregnant women had the highest overall prevalence of 14.1% while individual recognized as divorcees/sex workers had highest prevalence (70%) within group. Working pregnant women were more affected (21.9%) than totally unemployed counterparts (17.8%), just as the educated were more affected (23.9%) than the uneducated (17.9%). None of the pregnant women was undergoing prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programs. Though civilization seemed to have been taking its toll on the married women as already reported by other research, yet unprotected sex was obviously rampant as single youth, underage and divorcee formed large numbers of the pregnant women. The urgent need for PMTCT program in this study area becomes obvious due adverse maternal and fetal outcome associated with HIV.

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Myxozoan parasites affecting aquaculture fish in Punjab (India)

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yxozoans are one of the economically important groups of metazoan parasites as they infect fish harvested for food. New myxosporean pathogens are continually emerging and threatening the development of aquaculture all over the world. They cause production losses and some fish have to be discarded because they are unsightly and not considered to be fit for human consumption. In Punjab (India), polyculture consists of Indian major carps - Catla (Catla catla Ham.), rohu (Labeo rohita Ham.) and mrigal (Cirrhinus mrigala Ham.), and exotic carps-silver carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix Valen.), grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idellus Valen.) and common carp (Cyprinus carpio Linn.). In polyculture, carps were prone to several diseases like trichodiniosis, haemorrhagic septicemia and various parasitic infectious diseases especially myxozoanosis. The different organs were examined under the steroozoom trinocular microscope for the presence of pseudocysts of myxozoans and clinical symptomatology if any. Intensity of the disease was recorded in gill pseudocyst Index (GPI) on the basis of countable number of pseudocysts present per gill. Similarly Fin Plasmodial Index (FPI) and Scale Plasmodial Index (SPI) were calculated for the intensity of infection. For identification, spores were studied fresh and in stained preparations with Iron-haematoxylin and Ziehl-Neelsen. For tissue location, wax embedded sections (6-7 μm thick) of infected gills were stained with Luna's method. The pseudocysts were located in the gill lamellae, gill filament and also in the gill arch. A total of 30 species of myxosporean were found infecting various tissues in the gills, scales and fins. Out of which 19 species belong to the genus Myxobolus, 7 species to the genus Thelohanellus 3 species to the genus Henneguya and 1 species to genus Triangula. Parasitism was of three typebi, tri and polyparasitism. Clinical presentation and principal lesions caused by each species was recorded.

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Assessment of knowledge and practice on sexual transmittable diseases among Goro High School students at Adama town

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Background: Sexually transmitted diseases are a major health concern for young adults around the world. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the rates of gonorrhea and syphilis are at historic lows but we must realize the rates of sexually transmitted diseases are still at epidemic rates. In fact, the United States has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the industrialized world, with rates that are 50 to 100 times higher than other industrialized nations.

Aim: To estimate knowledge and practice on STDs among Goro High School students in Adama town, Ethiopia.

Methods: A facility based cross-sectional study was applied using quantitative method. The sample size required for the study was calculated using the formula to estimate a single population proportions. The sample size were determined by taking 50% of population and a level precision at 95% level of confidence and taking 10% for non-response then the final sample size was calculated.

Results: A total of 376 students participated in this study, accordingly, majority 241 (64.1%) were 17-18 years of age, 110 (29.3%) were 19-20 years of age, 19 (5.1%) were 15-16 years of age, while 6 (1.6%) were less than 20 years of age. Among our respondent, 211 (56.1%) were males and 165 (43.9%) of them were females. The participants were asked main source of information regarding STI, accordingly, 27 (7.2%) of them were got from their previous sexual encounter and 124 (33%) were from school education. For a total 287 (76.3%) of respondents were, friends were as a source of information and parents also share 12.2% in providing an information for their children. About 77 (20.5%) of respondents were received an information from medical personnel while a total of 187 (49.7%) used magazine as source of information. Newspaper also shares 13% in transmitting information and the coverage of TV is very high which accounts 354 (94.1%).

Conclusion: While the majority of the students had heard about STDs, their knowledge was inadequate. Males had a greater number of sexual partners than females but a lower age at first intercourse. School education, peer groups and mass media remains the main ways by which students learn about STDs. However, parents play a crucial role in the education of female students about sexual matters. Whereas students knew the risk factors for STDs, they had a high degree of risk taking sexual behavior evidenced by the very low percentage using condoms and a large proportion having multiple partners. Male students were more likely to practice risky sexual behavior.

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Diagnostic efficacy of Tsolp-27 recombinant antigen for the serological diagnosis of neurocysticercosis in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa

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Tysticercosis is a disease caused by larval stages of *Taenia solium (T. solium)*, which is considered a public health problem in many low-income countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. This illness is now also emerging in some high-income nations as a result of travel to or immigration from endemic areas. Accurate diagnosis of neurocysticercosis (NCC) requires costly neuroimaging techniques or commercial enzyme-linked immunoeletrotransfer blot (EITB), which are seldom affordable for people in endemic countries. Hence, new low-cost diagnostic methods offering high sensitivity and specificity are needed. The aim of the present study is to identify, express and evaluate the antigenicity of Tsolp-27 in human sera from Nicaragua and Mozambique. Immunogenic Tsolp-27 protein from T. solium cysticerci were identified by two-dimensional electrophoresis Western blotting using human sera from Nicaragua and Mozambique confirmed to be positive for NCC by computer tomography. The crude Tsolp-27 antigen was sequenced by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry. The gene corresponding to Tsolp-27 was cloned, expressed, purified and evaluated serologically. We evaluated the recombinant antigen Tsolp-27 in relation to commercial and in-house Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent assay (ELISA), Western blot-TsolHSP36 and compared them with the EITB that was regarded as the gold standard method. The analyzed serum samples were obtained from 265 epileptic patients from Nicaragua and Mozambique, 31 of them were confirmed to be NCC positive by EITB. The serological analysis of Tsolp-27 recombinant antigen in Nicaragua and Mozambique showed a sensibility and specificity of 86.20 % and of 97.24% respectively. Furthermore, considering the simplicity and low-cost of this test, it might be preferable as a diagnostic method in poorly equipped laboratories in endemic countries. The recombinant protein is now available and we expect to be useful in the diagnosis of cysticercosis not only in Central and Sub-Saharan Africa, but also in other endemic regions in the world.

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Examining HIV/AIDS related risk behavior experiences of men having sex with men (msm) in Addis Ababa

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The aim of this study was to explore risky sexual behaviors from experiences of MSMs in Addis Ababa, to ▲ inform the need to include these people to HIV preventive efforts in the country. Using phenomenological method I met 21 MSMs and 4 elite experts working in the area of MSM from Addis Ababa. Fifteen MSMs and the four experts reported their experiences about the topic through in-depth interview. The rest 6 MSMs shared with me their lived sexual lives in group discussion. In addition, we have observed this community at four different real life situations, at Khat chewing ceremony, in the night clubs, at engagement and birthday ceremonies (parties) and in cinema halls. Furthermore the profile of gay Ethiopians on Planet-Romeo (only gay social media) and some posts of gays in the city and forwarded comments to the posts on different social media were analyzed. Participants (MSMs) were aged between 19 and 45 years and came from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Interviews were tape-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and translated into English. Coding, grouping and categorization was done using open code computer software. Eleven men out of twenty one MSM in the study saw their same-sex attraction as part of their nature. But ten attracted to the same sex life through peer pressure and sexual abuse by their closest people. Close to 28% of the study participants were found to be HIV positive. Almost all (21) MSMs disclosed that at least once in their life they suffered from different types of STDs and other gay related health problems. Lifetime sexual partner numbers ranged from two to more than 1000. For several men, relationships were not primarily centered on romantic feelings but instead intimately connected to economic and sexual dependence. Condom use in this community is seen as full of myths as it is parching sex and reducing sexual orgasm. Comprehensive knowledge on HIV in this community is found to be very low as it can be seen in their misconception on unprotected anal sex is not risky type of sex for HIV rather they believe vaginal sex is risky. The sexual network of these people is found very wide and highly interrelated with heterosexuals through bisexuals. Male commercial sex work is expanding and clients for such MCSW are gays, married bisexuals, university students, foreigners, and all types of people from all walks of life irrespective of age, ethnic group, religion, academic background and social status. Several informants felt they are in Psychological stress related living in a highly homophobic society. This study contextualizes risky sexual relationships among MSM in Addis Ababa and highlights the extent to which HIV prevention activities in the city need to consider MSM in the city so as to save the MSM in particular and the sexual majority in general.

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Redescription and ultrastructural study on *Hexangium* sigani Goto and Ozaki, 1929 from three different *Siganus spp.* fishes from red sea, Egypt

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Siganus rivuatus, Siganus luridu and Siganus sutor are common fishes in the red sea. In our study and during a survey of red sea fish parasites (exactly in the region of Northern Red Sea, Of Sharm El-Naga, Makadi Bay, Southern Hurghada, Egypt) 94 fishes were examined (70 Siganus rivuatus, 8 Siganus luridu and 16 Siganus sutor) by routine Parasitology methods. 48 out of 94 fish were found to be naturally infected by Hexangium sigani Goto and Ozaki, 1929 (44 Siganus rivuatus, two Siganus luridu and two Siganus sutor). The encountered parasites were described morphologically and morphometrically by means of light and scanning electron microscopy The previous comparison among all described forms of H. sigani revealed some morphological variations confined between; absence or presence of tegumental spines, testes arrangement and larger or smaller of body dimensions and ovary size. These differences are considered to be of minor importance. The present study using SEM revealed presence of one main tegumental structures, sensory papillae, which are differentiated into three forms; oral papillae, genital papillae and body papillae. Each form exhibited a moderately wide range of variations both in size and in distribution. The presence of different types of sensory papillae on different locations over body tegument of H. sigani may reflect a variation in the functions they performed. SEM study of this parasite was done for the first time in Egypt with addition of many ultrastructural details; most of which are of taxonomical importance. Also, for the first time, Siganus luridus represented a new hos record of H. sigani.

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Increased HIV-1 acquisition by Depo-Provera unlike Nur-Isterate involves increased HIV-1 replication and CCR5 co-receptor levels

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Epidemiological data show a significant association between usage of the progestin-only injectable contraceptive depo-medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA, Depo-Provera) and increased HIV-1 acquisition. No such association is shown for the progestin-only injectable contraceptive norethisterone (NET) enanthate (Nur-Isterate). Whether this association for DMPA is due to confounding factors inherent in clinical studies is highly controversial and a critical issue for women's health, especially in developing countries with high DMPA usage and high HIV-1 prevalence and incidence. Using novel receptor and cell biology approaches to this clinical problem, we investigated the direct actions of these progestins on tissue and cellular models *ex vivo*, towards elucidation of biological mechanisms to explain the clinical data. We show for the first time that MPA, unlike NET, significantly increases HIV-1 replication in human cervical explant tissue at concentrations detected in the serum of DMPA users. These results together with results in peripheral blood mononuclear cells and an indicator cell line support a mechanism whereby MPA, acting via the glucocorticoid receptor (GR), increases HIV-1 replication in genital tract tissue. We discuss the mechanisms of this effect. Our data offer novel insights and a plausible biological mechanism for more informed choice of contraception for women at high risk of HIV-1 infection with significant potential impact on contraception policy and HIV-1 prevention.

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HIV knowledge, testing practice and behavior among female people who inject drugs in Georgia

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Introduction & Aim: Needle sharing practice remains the main factor for spreading HIV (47.3%) among people who inject drugs (PWIDs) in Georgia. In spite of 5 times increased coverage of female injection drug users (IDUs) by Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) women IDUs remain hard to reach population. The objective of this study was to analyze risky injection/sexual behavior of PWIDs/female IDUs who are the clients of NSP, if there is a difference in behavior of male and female PWIDs.

Methods: Consecutive sampling was used to recruit PWIDs during 5 months in 2015. The selection criteria were: (1) Drug injection practice during last month; (2) Being a beneficiary of NSP program for more than 6 month; (3) Age more than 17 years. Sample size was 1032, among them females were 129 (12.5%). Structured questionnaire of Risk Assessment Battery (RAB) was used to assess drug risk and sex risk items separately and calculated RAB score.

Results: Female IDUs reported not using drugs in a close environment. They inject drugs with more than 2 persons (mean 2.9, median 3, mode 2) and mostly do not share injectable equipment (94.9%). While 38% of male PWIDs stated needle sharing practice at least once during last month, among them 43.8% shared with one person and 56.1% with more than 2 persons (p<0.05). As referring to sexual practice, 15.97% female IDUs had more than 2 sexual partners during the last 6 months with whom 22.7% use condoms regularly, 21.1% sometimes and 32.3% always. It was meaningful to find that 10.08% of female study participants (2 times less than men) never had an HIV test and 34.45% of them had HIV test a year ago. Female drug users revealed to have lack of knowledge on HIV transmission, 56% stated wrong answers on HIV transmission risks. Total RAB scale score for female PWID study participants was 0.26 (Range=0-1).

Conclusion: The study results demonstrate that female IDUs practice risky behavior but their practice is less risky than men IDUs. This refers to both sexual and injection behaviors. HIV testing rate is low among female PWIDs and reasons behind this need further investigation. The findings of this study can be used to address the risks female IDUs face, to modify program according to their needs, to develop and test new approaches for attracting, retaining and increasing safe behaviors of female IDUs.

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Risky sexual behavior among women: Does economic empowerment matter? case of Gabon, Mozambique, Sierra-Leone and Zambia

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The link between economic empowerment and high risky sexual behavior has been debated by different scholars in various settings. However, no consistently clear connection between poverty and lack of education has been found regarding engagement in risky sexual behavior. Also, not much research has been done to examine the strength of these relationships for adolescents and women. The objectives of this study were to assess the relationship between female economic empowerment and risky sexual behavior in Africa. Using the latest Demographic and Health Surveys Data (DHS 2011–2014) from Gabon, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Zambia, univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis was done on women aged 15 to 49 to examine the patterns of and differences in the association between women's economic empowerment and risky sexual behavior. The findings both at community and individual level indicate that empowered women (higher education and wealth household) and adolescents aged 15 to 19 are highly significantly associated with engagement in high risky behavior. The result of this study stresses the need to look further than individual factors in the quest to resolve risky sexual behavior in Africa. The interrelations between female economic empowerment and engagement in risky sexual behavior are more complicated and less straightforward than usually presumed.

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A phenomenological inquiry of the challenges faced by people with HIV and TB comorbidity in a resource limited setting of Swaziland

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Objective: The objective of this study is to delve into the daily challenges being faced by clients with HIV and TB co-morbidity through their daily experience with the aim of mitigating those challenges and limiting the progression of such clients to critical stage.

Method: This is a qualitative phenomenological study that purposively recruited clients with HIV/TB for indepth interviews. The clients were those attending a rural health centre for daily treatment.

Results: Stigmatization, association of TB with HIV, lack of nutritious food, lack of social support and burden associated with MDR-TB emerged as key issues that affect the life of respondents; Thus leading to high default of treatment, cessation of treatment and emotional breakdown.

Conclusion: Government should scale up awareness programme on HIV and AIDS, should provide social security and provide support systems that will make life easy of people living with HIV and TB.

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