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Place of traditional medicine in the treatment of HIV infected patients hospitalized in a teaching hospital in Côte d'Ivoire.

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Abstract

Aim

The aim of this work was to determine the place of traditional medicine in the treatment of the patients hospitalized in a teaching hospital in Ivory Coast.

Methodology

We conducted a transverse descriptive study on in-patients from November 15th , 2009 to January 10th , 2010 in the Service of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SITD) of the Treichville Teaching Hospital.

Results

The average age of patients was of 36 ± 7,51 with extremes ranging from 25 to 56 years. 88% had at least the primary education level. 80% were working in the tertiary sector. 80% of the questioned patients had already consulted a traditional healer: 56% in first intention, 12% in second intention. 24% were addressed to a modern health agent by a traditional healer, whether for an assessment (8%), a therapeutic complement (4%) or after therapeutic failure (12%). None of the patients was addressed to a traditional healer by a modern health agent. Concerning pathology in progress, the patients were also followed by traditional healer and were using traditional medicine in the hospital (16%). 60% had consulted a TP or had used traditional therapies in the previous days to their admission in the hospital.

Conclusion

It comes out from this work that traditional medicine plays a main function in the treatment of HIV infected patients confronted with the disease in Côte d'Ivoire whatever their religious convictions, level of studies and social status. They use those medicines even on their hospitalization bed unbeknownst to the modern health agents.

Key words: Traditional medicine; Treatment; and Teaching Hospital.

Biography

Dr. Badara Diaby is on his way to complete a certificate of specialized studies in Public Health at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny University of Cocody, Côte d'Ivoire. He received his MD in 2007 from the Gamal Abdel Nasser University of Conakry, Guinea. He is highly interested in Traditional Medicine and is staff at the National Programme for Traditional Medicine Promotion in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He has authored 4 articles and serves as a review member of the French medical journal "Revue Sante Publique".