

**CD-Rom Publication Only: Track B****CDB025 - Variation of presenting CD4 cell count in an Asian cohort of HIV patients**

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**Objectives:** To determine the changes in the presenting CD4 cell count of Asian HIV patients over a 15 year period.

**Methods:** A cohort of HIV positive patients was established through the merging of data from two major HIV specialist clinics in Hong Kong, China. Three time periods were defined: 1991 to 1995 (Period A), 1996 to 2000 (Period B) and 2001 to 2005 (Period C). Correlations were made between demographic, presence of AIDS at diagnosis, while logistic regression analyses were used to correlate variables with CD4 cell count changes.

**Results:** A total of 933 HIV patients had available CD4 count at presentation: 73 (Period A), 380 (Period B) and 480 (Period C). The median age of the study population was 36; 19.2 % female; and Chinese ethnicity 85.1%, while 25.2% were diagnosed to have AIDS at first consultation. Overall, male had a slightly lower CD4 at presentation (279/uL vs 327 /uL, P<0.05). Patients with AIDS at first consultation suffered from a much lower CD4 cell count (76/uL vs 356/uL, P<0.005). Men having sex with men (MSM) had a higher presenting CD4 than heterosexual men (309 vs 224, p<0.005). The median CD4 count of injection drug users (IDU) was high at 459/uL, but the total number was very small (26). The median CD4 were: 374 /uL (Period A), 252 /uL (Period B), and 254/uL (Period C). Period A stood out with a higher CD4 count at presentation, compared to Period B or C. (P<0.05).

**Conclusions:** There is a noticeable variation of presenting CD4 count with the routes of HIV transmission. The relatively higher CD4 count of those reported in 1991–1995 reflected the survival advantage of long term survivors or good prognosis patients. The proportion of early diagnosis had remained stable.

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