**Original article:**

**Study of hematological profile of HIV positive patients in urban population**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** HIV infection is associated with a myriad of abnormalities related to hematopoiesis. Clinically significant hematologic abnormalities are common. Impaired haematopeisis, immuen-medicated cytopenias, and altered coagulation mechanisms have all been described in HIV-infected individuals.

**Materials and methods:** A prospective observational study of the haematological profile with clinical correlation was carried out in a large teaching hospital. 60 Patients admitted in the ward or attending the OPD were studied, after obtaining a written informed consent. All patients had confirmed HIV infection – ELISA reactive by two different methods. Pre and post test counseling was done for all patients.

Microcytic and normocytic anemias were nearly as frequent in the study. Macrocytic anemia was less common although macrocytosis without anemia was seen in four cases. In patients where MCV > 101, bone marrow also showed gross megaloblastic change. But only 5 out 8 patients whose MCV was between 93-100 showed megaloblastic changes in bone marrow but MCV was within normal range, one had no anemia while the other had Hb of 8 gm%

**Conclusion:** Anemia was the commonest cytopenia in this study.Neutropenia was uncommon unlike that seen in previous studies. Thrombocytopenia was also relatively common although not always symptomatic.

Keywords: Anemia , HIV infection