P248

VIROLOGIA

PREVALENCE OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) INFECTION IN ANAL DISTRICT OF WOMEN AND MEN

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INTRODUZIONE

HPVs are sexually transmitted viruses. Anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN is associated with high-risk human papillomavirus (HR-HPV). Data shows that anal warts are associated with high rates of AIN, especially in patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of HPV infections in patients with pre-cancerous anal lesions and in patients with risky sexual intercourse.

METODI

113 anal swabs (74 of men and 39 of women) were received by the UOC of Microbiology, Virology and Parasitology, between February 2017 and May 2019, with a request for HPV test. Common reasons for requesting an HPV test included patients with clinical lesions and patients having a risky sexual contact during the previous 2 months. Some of these patients were HIV +. HPV genotypes were identified using the INNO-LiPA HPV Genotyping Extra II kit (Fujirebio).

RISULTATI

Of the 113 anal swabs, 65.5% (74/113) were HPV-positive: 64.9% (48/74) men and 66.7% (26/39) women. In particular, 68.8% (44/64) of patients with clinical lesions and 61.2% (30/49) patients at sexual risk were HPV positive.Oncogenic types were found in 64.9% (48/74) positive samples; in 35.4% (17/48) of women and in 64.6% (31/48) of men. Multiple HPV type infections were shown in 48.5% (36/74) of the samples, in particular 56,2% (27/48) men and in 34.6% (9/26) women. 94.5% (36/38) of multiple infections contained an HR-HPV. 51.3% of males and 17.9% of females were HIV +. The prevalence of HPV in HIV+ was 63.2% and 57.1 %, respectively

CONCLUSIONI

HPV is the causative agent of cancer in the ano-genital district. Anal cancer every year counts about 20,000 new cases, of which about 90% is caused by HPV. The risk of developing cancer is also determined by the persistence of HR-HPV. Other cofactors include anal sex, multiple sexual partners, immunosuppression, smoking. Our study shows that the presence of HPV in the anal district is high. In addition, there is no screening program for anal cancer. For this reason, analyzing the presence of HR-HPV in precancerous lesions could be a good starting point for the prevention of the AIN.