

Drug- Resistance- Associated Mutations and HIV Sub-Type Determination in Drug-Naïve and HIV-Positive Patients under Treatment with Antiretroviral Drugs

Naziri, H. (MSc)

MSc of Medical Virology, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

Tabarraei, A. (PhD)

Assistant Professor of Medical Virology, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Infectious Diseases Research Centre, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

Ghaemi, A. (PhD)

Assistant Professor of Medical Virology, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

Davarpanah, M. (MD)

Infectious disease specialist, Shiraz HIV and AIDS Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

Javid, A. (MSc)

MSc of Microbiology, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

Moradi, A. (PhD)

Professor of Medical Virology, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

Corresponding Author: Moradi, A.

Email: abmoradi@yahoo.com

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Abstract

Background and Objective: Resistance to antiretroviral agents is a significant concern in clinical management of HIV-infected individuals. Resistance is the result of mutations that develops in the viral protein targeted by antiretroviral agents.

Material and Methods: In this cross-sectional study, the blood samples of 40 HIV-positive patients were collected. Twenty of them were drug-naïve and the rest were under treatment for at least one year by antiretroviral agents. Virus genome was extracted from patient's plasma with high-pure-viral-nucleic-acid kit. Then, by means of reverse-transcriptase and specific primers of protease genes were amplified and sequenced. Sequences of genes, drug- antiretroviral- resistant mutations and subtypes were determined using Stanford University's HIV-drug-resistance databases.

Results: Drug-naïve patients show 15% resistance to nucleoside-reverse-transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI) and 20% resistance to non-nucleoside-reverse-transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). Anti-protease resistance is not observed in any patients. In under treatment patients, drug resistance to NNRTI (25%) is more than drug resistance to NRTI (20%) and the rate of drug resistance to protease inhibitor is 5%.

Conclusion: Our findings show a high prevalence of drug-resistant mutations in Iranian-drug-naïve-HIV-infected patients. But in under treatment individuals, the rate of drug resistance is less than previous studies.

Keywords: HIV; Nucleoside Inhibitor; Non-Nucleoside Inhibitor; Protease Inhibitor