ABSTRACT

Background. Angular Cheilitis (AC) is extraoral lesion characterized with erythema, cracking, inflammation or ulceration at the corners of the mouth that usually occurs in people with nutritional deficiency, reduction of vertical dimension and xerostomia. AC is also one of the seven cardinal lesions frequently discovered in people with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection. AC is caused by opportunistic coinfection of Candida albicans and Staphylococcus aureus. In HIV-positive people, opportunistic infection tends to occur due to the depleted immune system. Since AC is appeared extraorally, it may serve as an early sign indicating the existence of HIV. Transgenders face myriad challenges that place them at elevated risk of HIV infection because of their sexual behaviors. Concurrent sexual partnership with unprotected oral and anal sexual intercourse plays a big role in HIV transmission in transgenders. Purpose. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of Angular Cheilitis in HIV-positive transgenders in Surabaya. Method. Analytic observational study with cross-sectional total sampling method on 108 transgenders. Results. Out of 45 HIV-positive transgenders, 16 were diagnosed with Angular Cheilitis (39.4%). Risk relative analysis concluded that HIV-positive transgenders were approximately 17 times at risk of having AC. The highest prevalence were observed in those also suffering from Oral Candidiasis (OC) (54.7%). There was also correlation between OC and AC. People with OC was approximately 29.7 times at risk of having AC at the same time. Conclusion. AC in people at-risk is a compelling sign of the existence of HIV infection.

Keywords: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS), Angular Cheilitis, Transgenders