

Management of Dyslipidemia Associated with Anti-Retroviral Therapy in HIV/AIDS Patients

Debrina Kusuma Devi, Erwin Astha Triyono, Musofa Rusli

*Division of Tropical Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Airlangga, Dr. Soetomo General Hospital, Jl Prof Dr Moestopo 47 Surabaya 60132, Indonesia
apji@fk.unair.ac.id*

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Abstract: Dyslipidemia is a lipid metabolism disorder characterized by increased and decreased lipid fractions in plasma, including elevated total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, TG, and decreased HDL cholesterol. Dyslipidemia often occurs in patients with Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), especially those who have received anti-retroviral therapy (ARV). Various ARVs can cause dyslipidemia and the most common is the Protease Inhibitor group. Dyslipidemia is an important risk factor for cardiovascular events. Management of dyslipidemia in HIV-infected patients receiving antiretroviral therapy includes lifestyle modification, switching of antiretroviral drugs, and the use of lipid-lowering drugs as targeted by the recommendations of the NCEP ATP III.

1 INTRODUCTION

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) by attacking white blood cells called CD4 and it can damage the human immune system. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), a person is diagnosed with AIDS if it has a CD4 cell count of than 200 cells/mm³ and suffers one or more opportunistic infections or cancer caused by HIV (Departemen Kesehatan RI, 2006).

A survey conducted by UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Program on HIV AIDS) stated that there were about 35.3 million people worldwide with HIV and 2.3 million of them were new infections in 2012 (UNAIDS, 2013). Directorate General of Disease Control and Environmental Health-Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia has conducted a HIV/AIDS case survey in Indonesia until 2014 that showed 150,296 cases of HIV and 55,799 cases of AIDS with deaths in 9,796 cases (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2014).

HIV/AIDS has a high mortality rate; however, the mortality of this disease has dropped dramatically since the use of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART). There was a 4%

reduction in the mortality rate of HIV/AIDS from 2000-2001 in the United States and it continued to decline by 70% in 2005. There was a 50% mortality rate from 2003-2007 in HIV/AIDS patients receiving anti-retroviral therapy in Indonesia. The decrease in HIV/AIDS morbidity and mortality significantly improves the quality of life of people with HIV and AIDS. However, long-term adverse effects of antiretroviral therapy (ARV) are emerging, including dyslipidemia, which is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease (HIV-CASUAL Collaboration, 2010; Bavinger et al., 2013).

Dyslipidemia is common in people with HIV who are receiving anti-retroviral therapy. The prevalence of dyslipidemia in HIV patients receiving antiretroviral therapy varies from 30% to 80%, depending on the type of drug used. The most common types are hypertriglyceridemia (40-80%) and hypercholesterolemia (10-50%) (Sprinz et al., 2010).

A study conducted at Dr. Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya, Indonesia in 2009 on 42 HIV patients receiving ARV treatment showed that serum lipid concentration for total cholesterol was 210.5 ± 68.96 mg/dL, triglyceride level of 216.14 ± 134.21 mg/dL, High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) levels of 42.76 ± 12.75 mg/dL, and Low-Density Lipoprotein

(LDL) levels of 144 ± 71.81 mg/dL (Rosita et al., 2009).

Many references correlate dyslipidemia in HIV patients with antiretroviral therapy and its effects on the cardiovascular system. Therefore, we aim to further discuss its management because good management is expected to reduce cardiovascular incidences. This study discussed the management of antiretroviral-related dyslipidemia in HIV/AIDS patients that focused on a selection of lipid-lowering drugs.

2 ANTI-RETROVIRAL THERAPY TYPES

There are six types of ARV drugs, namely:

1. Nucleoside (NRTI) and nucleotide (NtRTI) reverse transcriptase inhibitors: Zidovudine, lamivudine, emtricitabine, stavudine, didanosine, zalcitabine, abacavir, tenofovir.
2. Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). Efavirenz, nevirapine, delavirdine
3. Protease inhibitor (PI): Amprenavir/ fosamprenavir, atazanavir, indinavir, lopinavir/ ritonavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir, tipranavir, ritonavir
4. Fusion inhibitor (FI): Enfuvirtide
5. Co-receptor antagonist: Maraviroc, vicriviroc.
6. Integrase inhibitor: Raltegravir (Table 1).

The antiretroviral drugs that are available in Indonesia are Lamivudine, Zidovudine, Tenofovir, Stavudine, Emtricitabine, Efavirenz, Nevirapine, Lopinavir, and Ritonavir. Standard antiretroviral therapy at least uses three types of two different drug types. Treatment using three types of drugs is called HAART which aims to suppress HIV viral replication. WHO recommends the use of two NRTI + one NNRTIs as first-line ARV therapy and two NRTI + boosted PIs as the second line. The first-line and second-line ARV combinations recommended in Indonesia are:

1. First line
 - AZT + 3TC + NVP (Zidovudine + Lamivudine + Nevirapine)
 - AZT + 3TC + EFV (Zidovudine + Lamivudine + Efavirenz)
 - TDF + 3TC (or FTC) + NVP (Tenofovir + Lamivudine or Emtricitabine + Nevirapine)
 - TDF + 3TC (or FTC) + EFV (Tenofovir + Lamivudine or Emtricitabine + Efavirenz)
2. Second line
 - TDF + 3TC (or FTC) + LPV/r (Tenofovir + Lamivudine or Emtricitabine + Lopinavir/ritonavir)
 - AZT + 3TC + LPV/r (Zidovudine + Lamivudine + Lopinavir/ritonavir)

Those two lines are a combination therapy commonly used in adolescent and adult patients. Selection of drugs and combinations can be adjusted to the condition of each patient (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2011).

Table 1: Available Antiretroviral Therapies Based on Types.

ARV Types		Examples
Nucleoside and Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NRTIs)	Abacavir (ABC) Didanosine (ddI) Zalcitabine (ddC)	Stavudine (d4T) Zidovudine (AZT) Lamivudine (3TC) Tenofovir (TDF) Emtricitabine (FTC)
Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs) Protease Inhibitor	Delavirdine (DLV) Etravirine (ETV) Indinavir (IDV) Nelfinavir (NFV) Saquinavir (SQV) Fosamprenavir (FPV) Amprenavir (APV) Tipranavir (TPV) Darunavir (DRV)	Nevirapine (NVP) Efavirenz (EFV) Lopinavir (LPV) Ritonavir (RTV)
Fusion Inhibitor Co-receptor antagonist- CCR5 antagonist	Enfuvirtide Maraviroc	
Integrase Inhibitor	Raltegravir	

Table 2: Therapeutic Effect of ARVs to Lipid Profile

Currently Recommended First-Line Agents are in Bold				
Antiretroviral	Total Cholesterol	LDL-C	HDL-C	Triglyceride
PLs (boosted)				
Lopinavir	↑↑	↑↑	↔/↓	↑↑↑
Atazanavir	↑	↔/↑	↔/↓	↔
Fosamprenavir	↑	↑	↔/↓	↑↑
Saquinavir	↑↑	↑↑	↔/↓	↑
Darunavir	↑	↑	↔/↓	↑
Tipranavir	↑↑	↑↑	↔/↓	↑↑↑
NNRTIs				
Efavirenz	↑	↑	↑	↑
Nevirapine	↑	↑	↑↑	↔/↑
NRTIs				
Tenofovir	↔/↑	↔/↑	↔/↑	↔/↑
Abacavir	↔/↑	↑	↑	↑
Lamivudine	↔	↔	↔	↔
Zidovudine	↑	↑	↑	↑↑
Stavudine	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
CCR5 Inhibitors				
Maraviroc	↔	↔	↔/↑	↔
Integrase Inhibitors				
Raltegravir	↔/↑	↔/↑	↔/↑	↔

Table 3: Category of cardiovascular risk, LDL target, and lipid-lowering drug limits (NCEP ATP III).

Risk Category	LDL-C Goal	Initiate TLC	Consider Drug Therapy
High risk: CHD or CHD risk equivalents (10-years risk > 20%)	< 100 mg/dL (optional goal: < 70 mg/dL)	≥ 100 mg/dL	≥ 100 mg/dL (< 100 mg/dL: consider drug options)
Moderately high risk: 2+ risk (10-year risk 10%)	(< 130 mg/dL)	≥ 130 mg/dL	≥ 160 mg/dL
Lower risk: 0 – 1 risk factor	< 130 mg/dL	≥ 160 mg/dL	≥ 190 mg/dL (160-189: LDL-lowering drug optional)

CHD: Coronary Heart Disease. Major risk factors: cigarette smoking, hypertension (BP > 140/90 mmHg or on antihypertensive medication); low HDL cholesterol (< 40 mg/dl); family history of premature CHD (CHD in male first-degree relative < 55 years; CHD in female first-degree relative < 65 years, and age (men > 45 years, women > 55 years). TLC: Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes. LDL: Low-Density Lipoprotein (Grundy et al., 2004)

3 DISLIPIDEMIA IN HIV INFECTION

Dyslipidemia is defined as a lipoprotein metabolism abnormality characterized by an increase or decrease in plasma lipoprotein fraction. The major lipoprotein fraction abnormalities are the increase in total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, and decreased HDL cholesterol. Dyslipidemia is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

Factors that cause dyslipidemia in HIV patients include age, male sex, family history of cardiovascular disease, poor diet, obesity, and poor lifestyle (Aberg and Malvestutto, 2011).

Dyslipidemia in HIV infection is characterized by a decrease in HDL cholesterol, LDL, and total cholesterol, and an increase in TG. Hypertriglyceridemia that occurs in HIV infection is a response to the chronic inflammatory process caused by the HIV virus. The inflammatory mediators involved are interferon- α (IFN- α), interleukin-6 (IL-6) which can increase lipogenesis. There is an increased activity of protein transfer cholesterol ester (CETP) in HIV infection in which CETP plays a role in the transfer of cholesterol ester from HDL to apolipoprotein-B. This explains the reason why HDL cholesterol levels are low in HIV infection.

Dyslipidemia in HIV patients may also be part of the lipodystrophy syndrome. The lipodystrophy syndrome is a cluster of clinical symptoms due to abnormal fat distribution in HIV patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Lipodystrophy is characterized by elevated triglycerides, total cholesterol, apoprotein B, or hyperinsulinemia. The lipodystrophy syndrome is affected by the length of treatment with ARVs and the age of the patient. This syndrome is characterized by changes in body fat composition in the form of lipoatrophy (decreased subcutaneous fat tissue due to an inability to store peripheral fat with increased distribution to visceral fat) that often occurs in the face, legs and buttocks and lipohypertrophy (accumulation of visceral fat tissue) in the form of gynecomastia and "buffalo hump".

There is an increased release of cytokines in lipodystrophy such as Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) and interleukin-6 (IL-6) as well as free fatty acids. Those with a decrease of adipose tissue could lead to lipotoxicity and fat deposition in the liver and muscle. The deposition of fat in the liver causes steatohepatitis and fat deposition in muscles plays a role in metabolic changes, especially insulin resistance. The presence of lipotoxicity also affects pancreatic function and leads to insulin resistance, glucose tolerance disorder, and dyslipidemia. These

metabolic changes increase the risk of the occurrence of cardiovascular disease (Caron et al., 2010; Estrada and Portilla, 2011; Feeney and Patrick, 2011). Detailed informations can be seen on table 1 and figure 1.

Several PI mechanisms are involved in the process of dyslipidemia, including:

1. Barriers to proteasome in hepatocytes stimulate TG synthesis and cholesterol.
2. Barriers to Glucose Transporter-4 (GLUT-4) in skeletal muscle and adipocyte tissue result in impaired glucose absorption and lipid metabolic disorders.
3. Barriers to the regulatory sterol translocation process in the process of glucose synthesis and adipocyte differentiation reduce adipocyte differentiation which affects fat distribution and peripheral lipoatrophy.
4. Barriers to SREBP-1 can increase lipogenesis and VLDL resulting in dyslipidemia. Enzyme Binding Protein-1 (SREBP-1), an NRTI class depleting mitochondrial DNA of peripheral adipocyte tissue, accelerates apoptosis and reduces peripheral lipid storage capacity resulting in peripheral lipoatrophy and dyslipidemia. Efavirenz, an NNRTI, can directly induce the occurrence of dyslipidemia (Andrew, 2003) (Figure 2).

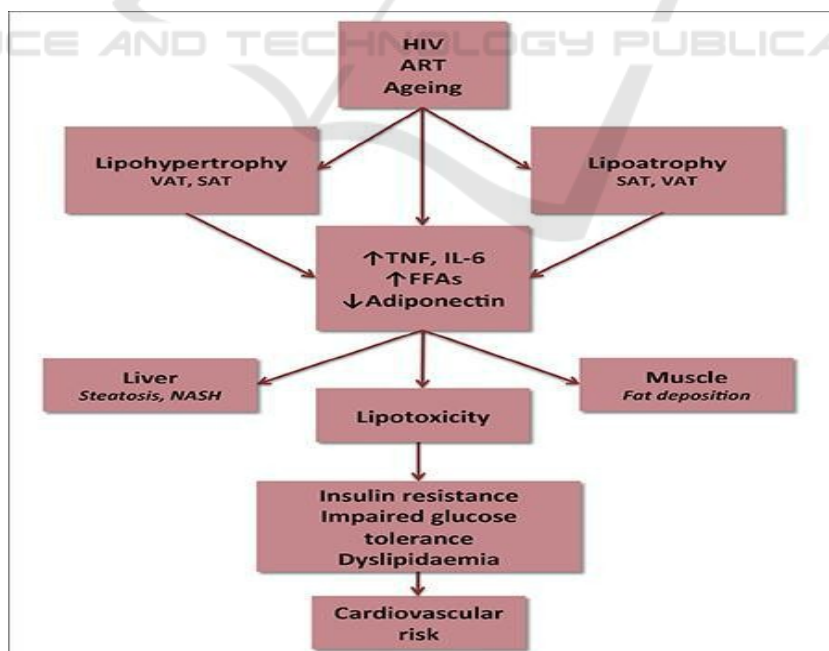
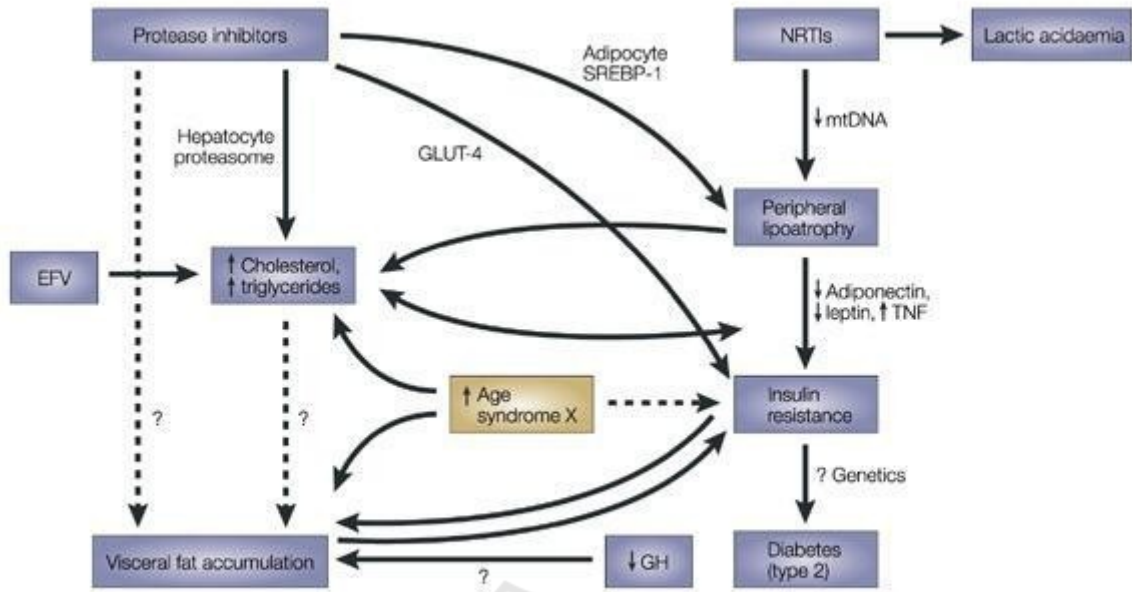


Figure 1. Metabolic changes due to lipodystrophy (Caron et al., 2010) VAT = visceral adipose tissue; SAT = subcutaneous adipose tissue; TNF = tumor necrosis factor; IL-6 = interleukin-6; FFAs = free fatty acids; NASH = Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis.



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Figure 2: Pathogenesis of lipodystrophy, dyslipidemia, insulin resistance (Andrew, 2003).

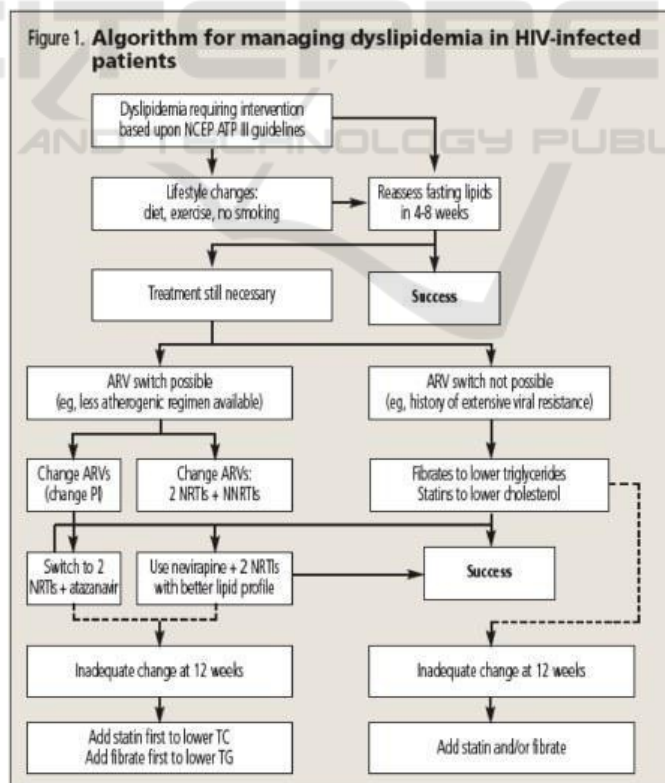


Figure 3: Algorithm for managing dyslipidemia in HIV-infected patients.

	ATV/r	DRV/r	FPV/r	IDV/r	LPV/r	SQV/r	EFV	ETV	NVP	RPV	MVC	DTG	EVG/c	RAL	ABC	FTC	3TC	TDF	ZDV
Statins	Atorvastatin	↑	↑	↑153%	↑	↑490%	↑	↓43%	↓37%	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Fluvastatin	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Lovastatin	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Pravastatin	↔	↑81%	↔	↑	↔	↓50%	↓44%	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Rosuvastatin	↑213%	↑48%	↑8%	↑	↑107%	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑48%	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Simvastatin	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓68%	↓	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Fibrates	Bezafibrate	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Clofibrate	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑↑
	Fenofibrate	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
	Gemfibrozil	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓41%	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Ezetimibe	↑ ^a	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	

Colour Legend

- No clinically significant interaction expected.
- These drugs should not be coadministered.
- Potential interaction which may require a dosage adjustment or close monitoring.
- Potential interaction predicted to be of weak intensity (<2 fold ↑AUC or <50% ↓AUC). No *a priori* dosage adjustment is recommended.

Text Legend

- ↑ Potential increased exposure of the lipid-lowering drug
- ↓ Potential decreased exposure of the lipid-lowering drug
- ↔ No significant effect

- ↑↑ Potential increased exposure of HIV drug
- ↓↓ Potential decreased exposure of HIV drug

^a Unboosted atazanavir

Numbers refer to increased or decreased AUC of the lipid-lowering drug as observed in drug-drug interaction studies.

Figure 4: Interaction of ARV with lipid-lowering drugs.

4 DYSLIPIDEMIA MANAGEMENT

The American College of Cardiology and The American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) in 2013 released a recommendation regarding the management of dyslipidemia. However, the recommendations issued by the ACC/AHA do not include the management of dyslipidemia in patients with HIV infection; thus, the management of dyslipidemia in HIV patients continues to use recommendations in accordance with NCEP ATP III (Coffey, 2014; Stone et al., 2013).

Evaluation and management of dyslipidemia in HIV-infected patients receiving antiretroviral therapy include lifestyle modification, switching of antiretroviral drugs, and the use of lipid-lowering drugs as targeted by the recommendations of NCEP ATP III. The examination of total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, and TG should be checked before starting antiretroviral therapy and should be evaluated periodically. Lifestyle modifications such as

smoking cessation, diet, and exercise are the initial recommendations. If the lipid target is still not reached then it is necessary to replace antiretroviral drugs or use lipid-lowering drugs (Estrada and Portilla, 2011; Dube et al., 2003; Grundy et al., 2004) (Table 3).

The use of lipid-lowering drugs may interact pharmacokinetically with antiretroviral drugs; thus, the selection of lipid-lowering drugs is important. Low-dose atorvastatin and rosuvastatin may be used with protease inhibitors with monitoring of side-effects. If there are no side-effects and lipid levels have not reached the target after 6-8 weeks of usage, then the doses of atorvastatin and rosuvastatin may be increased. Use of simvastatin and lovastatin is not recommended when combined with protease inhibitors. Pravastatin levels decrease by about 50% when used with protease inhibitors; thus, it is necessary to increase the dose to improve the efficacy.

Atorvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, and simvastatin levels decrease when used with NNRTIs

(EFV and NVP). Ezetimibe can reduce LDL levels by 10-20% and it has synergistic effects when combined with a statin class. Fibrates (gemfibrozil) or fenofibrate is useful for lowering TG levels. Fibrate can reduce TG levels by 50% and increase HDL by 5-10%.

Fibrates generally have little interaction with protease inhibitors because the fibrates are not metabolized in the cytochrome P450. Fibrates can be combined with statins to increase the effect on decreased TG up to normal levels. Fenofibrate can reduce TG levels by more than 50%. If combined with pravastatin, it can achieve lipid targets according to NCEP ATP III in patients with HIV (Estrada and Portilla, 2011; Calza et al., 2003; Wohl et al., 2008) (Figure 3 & 4).

5 PROGNOSIS

The chronic inflammatory process in HIV patients plays a role in increasing the risk of coronary artery disease. The incidence of acute myocardial infarction is quite high in HIV patients, both ARV and non-ARV. The risk of acute myocardial infarction associated with dyslipidemia in HIV patients receiving PI therapy increases by 2.13 times, NRTI increases by 1.21 times in Stavudine use, the use of Lamivudine and Zidovudine increases by 1.05 times, and the NNRTI group of Efavirenz increases by 1.02 times compared to HIV patients that do not receive antiretroviral therapy (Bavinger et al., 2013).

6 CONCLUSION

HIV/AIDS has a high mortality rate; however, the mortality of this disease has dropped dramatically since the use of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART). Dyslipidemia is common in people with HIV who are receiving anti-retroviral therapy. The incidence of acute myocardial infarction is quite high in HIV patients, both ARV and non-ARV.

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