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PREVALENCE SURVEY OF LIPODYSTROPHY IN HIV-POSITIVE PATIENTS IN JAPAN

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BACKGROUND: Prevalence studies on lipodystrophy syndrome (LD) in HIV positive patients have focused on Western cohorts. Lower values for serum lipid levels and BMI seen in Japanese people may impact on the prevalence of LD in HIV positive patients in Japan.

OBJECTIVES: To assess the prevalence of LD defined by clinical features and laboratory profiles, in HIV-positive patients in Japan.

DESIGN: A cross-sectional survey was conducted at the ACC, IMCJ, between 1 January and 31 May 2000. Consecutive, consenting HIV-positive patients had the following data collected; demography, CD4 cell counts, HIV viral load, ARV history, subjective assessment of LD sites and severity (standardized questionnaire and physical examination), metabolic measures (lipids, glucose, insulin and hepatic enzymes), waist and hip circumference and BMI.

RESULTS: 194 patients (95% male, 5% female) were surveyed. This represents a 65% participation rate. 21% had AIDS, mean CD4 count was 368 cells/mm³ and 60% had an HIV RNA level below 400 copies/ml. The prevalence of body habitus changes assessed by physician was 62%, of these, 29% of cases were reported to be mild, 55% moderate and 15% severe. The prevalence of patient-assessed body habitus changes was 59%. In PI-experienced patients the prevalence of body habitus changes consistent with LD was 75%: 25% in PI-naïve patients and 11% in ARV-naïve patients. Metabolic findings

included increasing levels of fasting triglycerides and total cholesterol with increasing LD severity, this result was statistically significant.

CONCLUSIONS: It appears from this survey that the prevalence of lipodystrophy in HIV-positive patients in Japan is similar to that found in studies of HIV-positive patients in Western cohorts.

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