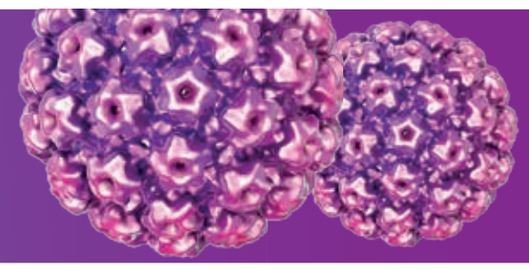
IPVC 2023
APRIL 17-21, 2023 | WASHINGTON DC | IN-PERSON & ONLINE



EFFECTIVENESS OF A MULTI-INGREDIENT *CORIOLUS VERSICOLOR*-BASED VAGINAL GEL IN HPV+ AND HIV+ PATIENTS: A PILOT OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Immunosuppressed, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) -positive, patients have an increased risk of incident, persistent, or recurrent human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. They also have lower clearance rates, higher viral load, and a marked predisposition for being colonized by several serotypes: all leading to more frequent and severe HPV-dependent lesions. A *Coriolus versicolor*-based vaginal gel has been shown to repair HPV-dependent low-grade cervical lesions and to increase high-risk HPV clearance in immunocompetent HPV-positive patients .

The aim of this study is to provide evidence about the effectiveness of a multi-ingredient *Coriolus versicolor*-based vaginal gel on HPV-dependent cervical alterations and HPV clearance in HIV+ patients.

METHODS:

In this pilot, prospective, one-cohort, observational study, 15 HIV-positive patients with HPV endocervical colonization and anomalous cervicovaginal cytology were included to receive a *Coriolus versicolor*-based vaginal gel 1 cannula/day for 21 days during first month + 1 cannula/alternate days for 5 months. Analysis of HPV patients with normal cytology and colposcopy (improved alterations) and patients with HPV clearance (measured using hybrid capture test) is presented.

RESULTS:

The overall HPV clearance and cytological normalization rates were 73.33% and 80%, respectively. Endocervical colonization by HPV also partially cleared in 13.33% of the cases. At the end of the study, the normalization of the colposcopy was achieved in 55.56%.

CONCLUSIONS:

Our results suggest that a 6-mounth treatment period with *Coriolus versicolor*-based vaginal gel could be an effective therapy in the management of endocervical HPV infection in HIV + patients. Its effects are similar to those obtained in immunocompetent HPV patients