

Abstract

The society, government and the professionals have paid much attention to the prevention and treatment of AIDS in Taiwan area. However, comprehensive care based on psychosocial, and psychiatric, and ethical aspects for the AIDS patients is still underdeveloped. Besides, the nation-wide survey of psychological distress and psychiatric morbidity of HIV-infected patients was never performed. The present study is a 3-year prevalence study that aims to understand the psychosomatic issues and psychiatric diagnosis of HIV infected patients by way of national survey. From this study, the nation-wide data on psychological, psychiatric and family aspects as well as the ethical issues of HIV-infected patients were disclosed. A series of reliable and valid measures were used to assess the psychological distress, cognitive function, and psychopathology. This study was designed to be a two stages survey study. In the first stage, the screening form of Brief Symptom Rating Scale BSRS-8 was served as screen tool. The diagnosis of psychiatric morbidity was made by senior psychiatrists using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview in the second stage. During the first year period, 699 subjects (630 males and 39 females) with HIV-1 infection were recruited. The study showed any kind of psychiatric morbidity occurred in 36.2% of our sample and the most frequent diagnosis was adjustment disorder with depressive mood 16.7%. Regarding the symptom dimension, of the BSRS-8, the most prevalent psychological distress defined by BSRS-8 and reach the moderate severity and above was insomnia 12.7% followed by depressive mood (11.4%), anxiety (10.5%), irritability (8.7%), interpersonal sensitivity (5.8%), suicidal ideation (4%), pain (3%), and dyspnea (1.6%). The duration of HIV infection was significantly higher in the group with psychiatric diagnosis. In addition to the survey of psychiatric morbidity, via in-depth interview in part of the samples, the main stressors were being diagnosed, the poor prognosis and family conflict. Using focus group discussion and questionnaire survey on the first line case managers revealed that they still need further training on the ethics, law and psychosocial aspects to take care of their registered clients. The present study implied that the psychosocial-ethical care including individual counseling, group/family support and patient-physician communication are rather important to improve the prognosis of the HIV-infected and the quality of health care on the AIDS patients.

Keywords : HIV ; Neuropsychiatric ; A Cross-sectional Nationwide Survey ; Psychosocial