

## Abstract

**Objective.** To describe the prevalence of dental caries status and oral lesions in perinatally HIV-infected children.

**Design.** A cross-sectional study of perinatally HIV-infected children.

**Setting.** Paediatric HIV outpatient department at the Nakhon Phanom Provincial Hospital, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**Sample and methods.** Forty children with perinatal HIV infection with the age ranged from the newborn to twelve years were eligible and selected for a study. These children were examined for dental caries status and oral lesions. Numbers of children with the history of receiving of antifungal therapy and antiretroviral (ART) were recorded. The oral rinse method or swab were use to isolate the *Candida*. Isolates of *Candida species* were characterized

**Results.** Dental caries indices were as the following: DMFT, 2.1; DMFS, 2.1; dft, 4.1; dfs, 10.9. 57.5% of all children had one or more oral lesions. Oral candidiasis and hairy leukoplakia were the most common oral lesions. Only 12.5% of children had received ART. 22.5% of children had a history of receiving antifungal therapy. Yeasts were isolated from 28/40 ( 70 %) of HIV-infected children. *C. albicans* was the most common yeast (26/28 cases) and the other two were *C. glabrata* and *C. krusei*.

**Conclusions.** Dental caries status and oral lesions were relatively high and lack of ART was evident in this present study. Significant treatment and prevention for dental caries and oral lesions were needed for children with HIV infection in Northern Thailand. Further, the availability of ART to these HIV-infected children was definitely called for.