

The Homeless Population As The Center Of HTLV Control Policies

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Background:

HTLV infection can occur silently and considering risk groups the homeless population stands out for its social invisibility. There are 221,000 homeless people in Brazil and this number has been growing due to the pandemic. This reality highlights the possibility of increased dissemination of HTLV in this group.

Methods:

The case report was chosen because of the possibility of exemplifying an individual who is vulnerable to the high transmissibility of HTLV.

Results:

The case report is about a woman, 24 years old, living below the poverty line, formerly part of the homeless population, a former illicit drug user. She sought prenatal care and she reported difficulty in walking, complaining of progressive weakness in the lower limbs, starting 7 years ago. Serological screening for HTLV-1/2 was positive. Severe paraspastic gait, lower limbs with reduced strength; LL hyperreflexia, bilateral Babinsk, bilateral Hoffman, meningeal signs and unchanging sensitivity. A CSF test was performed with a clear appearance, non-reactive VDRL and a positive test for HTLV 1 and 2, confirming a tropical spastic paraparesis, which is an HTLV-associated myelopathy. The initial conduct was a prescription of baclofen, without treatment to the treatment, being prescribed with a slight improvement of the condition. Note the permanence of possible paraparesis with problems and postural changes, do not walk without help.

Conclusions:

The invisibility of the homeless population is reflected in the absence of strategies to control HTLV in this population. This panorama may reflect the increase in the number of cases and the emergence of individuals with irreversibility of the installed condition. Access to adequate screening, prevention and treatment are essential to avoid worsening health.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Nothing to disclose.