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Reduced haematological indices in Nigerian HIV positive children

Anslem O Ajugwo¹ and Tosan A Erhabor²

¹Madonna University Elele, Nigeria

²Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN), Nigeria

HIV has been associated with increased mortality rate on infected children and many other children have been orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS related issues. Some routine haematological parameters were assessed in these children. Samples were collected from 25 HIV positive children and compared with another 25 samples from age-matched HIV negative children. Samples were analyzed for Packed Cell Volume (PCV), Haemoglobin concentration (Hb) and white blood cell count (WBC) using standard manual methods. PCV was significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) in the positive subjects ($23.6 \pm 4.78\%$) compared to control ($34.4 \pm 5.85\%$). Hb and WBC were also reduced in the positive children (7.44 ± 1.22 g/dl and $2.71 \pm 0.90 \times 10^9/l$) compared to negative children (10.1 ± 1.14 g/dl and $8.2 \pm 2.79 \times 10^9/l$) respectively. These reduced indices are associated with anaemic condition and compromised immune system hence allowing opportunistic infections to thrive.

slemjugwo@yahoo.com